# Daily Report

# Latin America

FBIS-LAT-89-002
Wednesday
4 January 1989

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*FBIS-LAT-89-002* *4 January 1989*

CONTENTS

**NOTICE TO READERS:** An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.


**CARIBBEAN**

**Cuba**

Government Releases 44 Political Prisoners *[NOTIMEX]* ..... 1
Castro Promises More Releases *[Bonaire Radio]* ..... 1
Further Reportage on Anniversary Celebration ..... 1
Nicaragua's Ortega Arrives *[Havana Radio]* ..... 1
More on Ortega Comments *[Havana International]* ..... 1
Soviet Delegation Arrives *[Havana Radio]* ..... 2
Angola Marks Anniversary *[Havana Radio]* ..... 2
Castro 30th Anniversary Speech *[Havana Radio, TV]* ..... 3
Chief of Verification Group Arrives in Luanda *[Havana Radio]* ..... 10
Nujoma: SWAPO Fighting Changes to Resolution *[Havana TV]* ..... 10
Fulfillment of Southern Africa Accords Viewed ..... 10
Ambassador in Lagos Cited *[Lagos International]* ..... 10
Former Envoy on Withdrawal *[Havana International]* ..... 11
Malmierca Reportedly Voices Support for Libya *[Tripoli JANA]* ..... 11
Medical Team Returns From Soviet Union *[Havana TV]* ..... 11
Electronic Agreement With USSR Signed *[Havana International]* ..... 12
Visiting Cardinal Views Role of Church *[Havana Radio]* ..... 12
Intellectuals' Letter Praises Revolution ..... 13
'Cultural Achievement' Cited *[Havana TV]* ..... 13
Commentary Voices Support *[Havana Radio]* ..... 13
Writers Condemn Letter Calling for Plebiscite *[Havana International]* ..... 14
Isle of Youth Reports to ANPP on Progress *[Havana TV]* ..... 14
Farming Report Closes Session *[Havana TV]* ..... 17

**Haiti**

Ex-Mayor of Port-au-Prince Leaves Country *[Bonaire Radio]* ..... 17

**CENTRAL AMERICA**

**El Salvador**

Army Reports 23 Rebel Casualties 23-30 Dec *[San Salvador Radio]* ..... 18
FMLN Reports on Military Actions, Sabotage ..... 18
186 Army Casualties Claimed *[Radio Venceremos]* ..... 18
Further on Recent Clashes *[Radio Venceremos]* ..... 18

**Nicaragua**

Contras Outline Peace Proposal, Timetable *[ACAN]* ..... 18
Government: 'No Comment' *[ACAN]* ..... 19
Ortega Congratulates Castro on Anniversary *[Havana TV]* ..... 19
President Leaves for Cuba; Delegation Listed *[Managua Radio]* ..... 19
New Economic Package, Devaluation Announced *[Managua Radio]* ..... 20
Cardinal 'Indirectly' Criticizes Government *[Hamburg DPA]* ..... 20

### Panama

Opposition Calls for Participation in Elections *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 3 Jan]* ..... 20
PPA Contests Nicosia Faction's Convention *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 30 Dec]* ..... 21
PPA President Nicosia Visits United States *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 3 Jan]* ..... 21
U.S. Official Accused of 'Interfering' in PPA *[LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL 1 Jan]* ..... 21
Newspaper Supplement Marks Cuban Anniversary *[LA REPUBLICA 1 Jan]* ..... 22

## SOUTH AMERICA

### Argentina

Alfonsin Names New Deputy Joint Chief of Staff *[TELAM]* ..... 23
Gassino Foresees No More Rebellions *[TELAM]* ..... 23
Negotiations With UK Over Falklands Urged *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* ..... 23
Report on UK Property Submitted to Deputies *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* ..... 24
CNEA Director Explains Energy Crisis *[Buenos Aires Radio]* ..... 24

### Bolivia

Bedregal To Participate in Cuban Celebration ..... 25
Pluralism Stressed *[La Paz Radio]* ..... 25
Note Issued *[La Paz Radio]* ..... 25
Country Receives Various Loans From Abroad ..... 25
Japan Lends $55 Million *[PRESENCIA 22 Dec]* ..... 25
World Bank Grants $9.7 Million *[PRESENCIA 23 Dec]* ..... 25
Currency Devalued by 12 Percent in 1988 *[PRESENCIA 22 Dec]* ..... 25

### Brazil

1988 Economic Growth Rate Reported Near Zero *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 30 Dec]* ..... 25
Relending Operations Limited to 75 Percent *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 29 Dec]* ..... 26
Army To Stress Technology in '89 Goals *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 30 Dec]* ..... 26

### Chile

Merino Disapproves of Ties With USSR *[Santiago Radio]* ..... 26
Journalists Want Government To Withdraw Charges *[Madrid EFE]* ..... 26
PCCh Stages Rally To Mark Cuban Revolution *[Santiago Radio]* ..... 27
INE Reports Inflation, Unemployment Rates *[Santiago Radio]* ..... 27
3d Air Force Brigadier Commander Installed *[EL MERCURIO 27 Dec]* ..... 27
Air Force High Command; Retirements Announced *[Santiago Radio]* ..... 27

### Colombia

President Delivers New Year's Address *[Bogota TV]* ..... 27
Guerrillas Propose Direct Talks With Government *[Madrid EFE]* ..... 30
Police Discover Clandestine Radio Station *[EL TIEMPO 28 Dec]* ..... 30

### Venezuela

Exceptions to Debt Payment Suspension Listed *[Caracas TV]* ..... 30
Oil Exports, Revenues To Increase in 1989 *[EL UNIVERSAL 20 Dec]* ..... 30
Trade With Andean Nations Up From Last Year *[EL NACIONAL 22 Dec]* ..... 30
Police Arrest Colombian Smuggling Cocaine *[EL UNIVERSAL 23 Dec]* ..... 30

## Cuba

### Government Releases 44 Political Prisoners

*FL0201133989 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2232 GMT 31 Dec 88*

[Text] Havana, 31 Dec, (NOTIMEX)—The Cuban Government today ordered the release of 44 prisoners convicted of crimes against the security of the state, including the last four historic opponents [plantados historics] whose release from prison prior to the completion of their sentence was rejected by authorities themselves.

The release comes on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban Revolution.

Some of the historic opponents have completed more than 20 years in prison and they call themselves "plantados historicos" because they refuse to dress in the common prison uniform and do not accept the rehabilitation programs proposed by the authorities.

The oldest of these prisoners is Mario Chanes de Armas, one of Fidel Castro's comrades in his fight against the regime of Fulgencio Batitsa. Chanes de Armas has been in prison since 1961. He was accused of conspiring against the integrity and security of the nation. He was part of the command headed by Castro and other Cuban leaders who assaulted the Moncada Barracks in 1953 in the city of Santiago de Cuba in the southern part of the country. This event led to the armed struggle that culminated in 1959 with the triumphant arrival in Havana of the revolutionaries from the Sierra Maestra.

Also included among the group of released prisoners is Alfredo Muestelier Neve, Alberto Grau Sierra, and Ernesto Diaz Rodriguez.

The Cuban president had rejected the release of these 44 prisoners, which had been requested by several international organizations and personalities that visited here.

### Castro Promises More Releases

*FL0401114889 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 4 Jan 89*

[Text] Foreign leaders continue to arrive in Havana, Cuba for festivities marking the 30th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution. Among those attending is Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. The week-long celebrations end today with an exhibit on the results of 30 years of socialism.

Cuban President Castro has promised the release of the remaining 225 prisoners that his government recognizes as political.

## Further Reportage on Anniversary Celebration

### Nicaragua's Ortega Arrives

*FL0301231289 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2232 GMT 3 Jan 89*

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, president of Nicaragua and coordinator of the Executive Commission of the FSLN, arrived in our country this afternoon from Managua.

The Nicaraguan leader was received at the Jose Marti International Airport by Jesus Montane Oropesa and Manuel Pineiro, both members of the PCC Central Committee, and by Orlando Fundora, president of the Cuban Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples' Movement.

The high-level delegation from the brother country is here to attend the activities for the 30th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban Revolution. In addition to other personalities, the delegation is composed of Commander [of the Revolution] Henry Ruiz; Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto; Rosario Murillo, president of the Sandinist Association of Cultural Workers; and Joaquin Cuadra, chief of the EPS General Staff and vice defense minister.

In a brief dialogue with journalists in the airport's protocol room, Nicaraguan President Ortega stated that the will of the people (?has been) imposed upon the plans of imperialism during recent times. This has been clear, he said, in the dialogues among area leaders such as the ones held during the presidential inauguration of Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja and at the inauguration of Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari. These are events which will possibly be repeated in Venezuela.

Regarding Nicaragua's prospects with the next U.S. Administration, Daniel Ortega said that they are unforeseeable since the options can range from armed intervention to dialogue. However, whichever option the White House takes, said Ortega, it will find our people properly prepared.

### More on Ortega Comments

*PA0401020689 Havana International Service in Spanish 0110 GMT 4 Jan 89*

[Report by Marianela Samper; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and his delegation were welcomed at the Jose Marti International Airport terminal by Jesus Montane and Manuel Pineiro, members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba. Following the warm welcome, Ortega agreed to answer some questions from the reporters who had gathered there.

Ortega began by stating that 1989 will be a year of achievements for Latin American people because there is a new phenomenon, meaning a pluralist dialogue between nations in the continent. He used as examples, which he described as historical events, the inaugurations of the Ecuadoran and Mexican presidents in August and December 1988.

[Ortega] "This reasserts that the Latin American people's will surpasses the interests of U.S. imperialism, which has tried to weaken and divide the Latin American people. New openings have been created in Latin America by the Latin American people's combative spirit at a time when the Cuban Revolution celebrates its 30th anniversary and the Nicaraguan revolution is about to commemorate its 10th."

President Daniel Ortega stated that his country has been preparing for the upcoming Central American summit, scheduled for 15-16 January in El Salvador. He said that specific points, including the verification mechanism for security matters, will be the main topics at the summit. He added that the topics must be first discussed by the Central American foreign ministers at their meeting in Managua.

The FSLN leader also issued statements to the news media on the new U.S. Administration that will soon assume power.

[Ortega] "We cannot harbor hopes that the U.S. Government will feel that the Nicaraguan revolution should be supported by the United States, which is not interested in revolutionary changes. Quite the contrary, it is interested in maintaining and defending its hegemony in Latin America and the Caribbean.

"Knowing about the U.S. people's pragmatism, we believe Mr Bush should have received various proposals by now. The proposals range from direct intervention with U.S. troops in Nicaragua to negotiations with Nicaragua. What option will President Bush take when he assumes the U.S. presidency on 20 January? Well, we do not know yet. However, we do know Nicaraguans must prepare to counter any of the options that Mr Bush may choose."

President Ortega reported that Nicaragua is carrying out a consultation process to outline and carry out deep economic measures this year. He said the measures implicitly include budget cuts in the production and investment sector so they may be able to counter the damages caused by U.S. imperialism's aggression and maintain the current social and economic levels.

[Ortega] "We have attained a victory against the Reagan administration, which is on its way out. Reagan will leave and the revolution will stay. However, this has been done at a high social cost—referring to the loss of Nicaraguan lives—and an economic and material cost. Therefore, we must face reality and take necessary measures, as we are currently doing."

The Nicaraguan president also emphasized that the Cuban Revolution's 30th anniversary should not only be commemorated by Cuba but also by the Latin American, Caribbean, and Third World countries, because all have supported it from the very moment of its victory.

## Soviet Delegation Arrives

*FL0301132189 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Jan 89*

[Text] Milos Jakes, general secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party arrived yesterday in Havana. He was invited to participate in the festivities marking the 30th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution. The distinguished guest and the delegation that accompanies him were received by PCC Politburo members Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and Jorge Risquet.

The Czechoslovak delegation yesterday visited the Miguel Henriquez clinical-surgical hospital in Havana.

The Soviet delegation headed by Vitaly Vorotnikov, member of the CPSU Politburo and chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, also arrived in Cuba yesterday to attend the national festivities. Vorotnikov, who is accompanied by his wife, was received by Jorge Risquet, member of the PCC Politburo and other Cuban leaders.

## Angola Marks Anniversary

*FL0301141389 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Jan 89*

[Text] The 30th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution was commemorated yesterday in the outskirts of Luanda, capital of Angola. A joint Cuban-Angolan military review was held in the (Fundas) rifle range. The ceremony was presided over by Division General Arnaldo Ochoa, chief of the Cuban military mission in Angola, and Cuban Ambassador to Angola Martin Mora.

The Cuban diplomat, the Angolan vice defense minister (Antonio Pablo Sona), and the chief of the Soviet military mission in that country, Lieutenant General (Petro Gusak), gave speeches.

Yesterday, Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos sent a message to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro marking the anniversary.

The message refers to the significance of the date and the historic victory attained by Cuba and Angola with the signing of the peace agreements in southwest Africa.

## Castro 30th Anniversary Speech

*FL0301164589 Havana Domestic Radio and Television Services in Spanish 0207 GMT 2 Jan 89*

[Speech by President Fidel Castro from the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes Park in Santiago de Cuba during the ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution—live]

[Text] Fellow countrymen of Santiago and all Cuba. I believe this was more or less the way I addressed the people in the first public event held after the triumph of the revolution.

It had been decided that the official ceremony marking the 30th anniversary would be held in Havana. This type of event had not taken place in the capital for a long time. We didn't want to deal with the difficulties of holding the commemoration in the city of Santiago de Cuba because great efforts had to be made to provide transportation and lodging to the numerous guests attending the event. I suggested to the comrades who were organizing the anniversary the idea of visiting Santiago on this day, at this time, as a very special wish. I thought we would not be marking the 30th anniversary appropriately if we did not at least come here to convey fraternal greetings to the people of Santiago. [applause]

I do not come to recount the great task carried out by the people of Santiago de Cuba Province during these 30 years. This was already done a few months ago, on 26 July. I have not come to recount the work of the revolution in these 30 years. I recall that this was done when the 25th anniversary was marked and at the time when Santiago de Cuba was proclaimed hero city and was decorated for this.

I came to share with you this glorious day and to remember with you that day from this same balcony, in this same square, when we celebrated victory 30 years ago [applause] in a ceremony perhaps not as solemn and perhaps not as well-organized as this one. You must understand how those times were. I believe that many of you can remember them and many of you have heard about it from your parents or teachers at one time or another.

That was a truly historic day and I believe it will be an unforgettable day not only for us—which is understandable—but also for future generations. January 1 was not only the culmination of a long struggle carried out by our people throughout many years, throughout almost 100 years at the time. We not only experienced victory that day. It was not only the day of victory but also a day of big decisions, of fundamental decisions. It was a day of big definitions. It was a day of great teachings. It was a day of great learning. Victory was not only reached on 1 January but it had to be defended.

During the predawn hours of that 1959 day, we were in the town of Contramaestre—actually at the sugar mill located there. We received what we could call rumors that the regime had collapsed or actually that Batista had fled. Not many minutes had passed when this news began to be confirmed. We immediately realized what was happening because this was preceded by a number of important events. The war had already been won.

Three days before, a meeting took place at the request—several days before—of the chief of the enemy troops in the eastern region of the country. This was General Eulogio Cantillo. This officer had not been characterized by being repressive. He had not been characterized by being responsible for bloody events. In honor of the historic truth, it must be said that during the time he led the operations, and above all the last offensive against the Sierra Maestra, this officer was not characterized by bloody repression. He was known as an officer of a certain degree of decency.

Several exchanges had taken place at other times, mainly regarding the return or release of enemy prisoners in the hands of our troops before and after the offensive. Before the offensive, he had even sent a seemingly polite message expressing his concern and regret for the operation—which in his view was unbearable, intolerable—which he was about to launch with approximately 10,000 soldiers and the support of artillery, armored units, and especially the air force, against our redoubts in the Sierra Maestra.

We thanked him very humbly and told him very humbly that we were going to wait for the Army in the Sierra Maestra and that, of course, if they were able to defeat the resistance they would find that, someday, even the children of those soldiers would look at the Sierra Maestra with admiration. I did not want to tell him what we were certain was going to happen, that the offensive was going to be defeated despite the very small number of men we had at the time. This is why I said we humbly thanked him and told him this.

Other contacts had taken place later, after the offensive. Contacts were made during the exchange of prisoners when the offensive disaster took place.

So, these events had taken place previously. We had sent messages to the troops and to some chiefs of the Batista army on numerous occasions throughout the war. This officer asked to meet with us on this occasion. The meeting took place on 28 December. We were already preparing the advance on Santiago de Cuba. He told us that they had lost the war, that they acknowledged they had lost the war, and they were willing to put an end to the fighting. We told him that the matter now was to see the way in which the way the war was going to end and the way fighting would end.

In reality, we were generous with them. We told him the Army had sunk. Perhaps a number of military men who had not been accomplices to crimes could be saved. I proposed that in order to put an end to the fighting, an uprising of the troops of Oriente Province—the former Oriente Province—take place, mainly those from the Santiago de Cuba garrison, and give it the character of a civic-military movement, or military-revolutionary movement. Thus, fighting would end.

We warned him, as we had always warned throughout the struggle, that we were resolutely against any coup d'etat. This was a constant preaching throughout our war as a result of Latin America's experience in which great struggles took place and of Cuba's own experience in which great struggles took place against tyrannical governments. A group of military men always showed up, overthrowing the government and presenting themselves as saviors of the country at a given time. Taking into account this experience, we maintained throughout the entire war a policy of rejection and condemnation of any military coup. We had warned that if a military coup took place we would continue the war.

We said this at different times. We said this when we had 100, when we had 150, when we had 200 men, and we repeated it until the end of the war. We agreed that the Santiago de Cuba uprising would take place in the afternoon of 31 December. The officer insisted on going to Havana. We did want him to go to Havana. He alleged that he had a number of contacts, that he had a close relative with an important post who was at the head of one of the western regiments. We advised him not to make the trip. He insisted on the need of the trip, on the advisability of the trip. We then warned him about three things, three things [repeats himself]:

First, that we did not want a coup d'etat in the capital. Second, that we did not want anyone to help Batista escape. Third, that we did not want contacts with the American Embassy to be made. These were three things that we warned him about. We told him we did not allow them. He solemnly committed himself to comply with the three things.

He went to the capital perhaps that same day or the following day. Strange news began to arrive then. Confusing messages were received saying that we had to wait. We were supposed to wait, I believe, until 6 December [corrects himself] 6 January or something like that. Of course, we were not willing to accept the changes in the agreements we had reached. Our troops were advancing everywhere. They were taking over city after city. We saw that the right time had come to liberate the city of Santiago de Cuba, to give what we could call the coup de grace in the city of Santiago de Cuba. We were not going to wait 6 or 7 days for these conditions to change. There was always the idea, the principle that the rebel forces should not lose a single day, a minute, or a second. Especially not to lose the opportunity of the most psychologically favorable moments.

Therefore, we sent a message to the one who was left in charge of the post telling him that we did not accept the unilateral changes to the agreements reached and that if the uprising of the garrison did not take place in the afternoon—and we told them the exact time—the operations against the city of Santiago de Cuba would begin. This was expressed in a clear way. In effect, the forces were moving toward Santiago de Cuba when the news we were referring to arrived in the predawn hours of 1 January.

What did they want to do? What did the regime want to do at the last moment? They wanted to conduct a coup d'etat, prevent the triumph of the revolution, confuse the people by saying that Batista had left, that the tyranny had ended, and that a new era had begun. They wanted to do all this and maintain the regime, maintain the military apparatus, and maintain the system. It was a gross attempt to repeat in the history of our country what had already happened before and what had happened in many countries in Latin America.

This did not catch us by surprise. In addition, I understand that our people had been alerted about this situation through Radio Rebelde's broadcasts, through the constant preaching carried out during the entire period, during the war period.

They carried out the coup, they helped Batista escape, they reached an agreement with the American Embassy, and proclaimed a government.

Do not forget that a government was proclaimed on 1 January. The ones who carried out the coup appointed a Supreme Court judge called Piedra as president of the Republic. That government never even took office. That same day, at dawn, the decision was made to denounce the coup without waisting a minute, without waisting a second. Instructions were given to all rebel forces to continue their operations. We did not want to have a single minute of truce between the revolutionary forces and those who carried out the coup.

An event took place on that 1 January which we had already foreseen on 26 July. Our 26 July plans included a call to the people for a revolutionary general strike. The time came precisely on that morning to call for a revolutionary general strike. I believe this constituted an exceptional event. All labor unions were in the hands of official leaders involved with the tyranny. There was no official workers union organization leader working with the revolution.

Immediately after denouncing the coup and after conveying the instructions to the chiefs of the rebel columns, the people were called through Radio Rebelde to carry out a general strike. At the same time, a proclamation was carried for the city of Santiago de Cuba to be totally paralyzed from 1500, with the exception of the electric

power plant so that communication could be maintained with the population. We told them that the city would be attacked. All these decisions were made one after the other on 1 January.

Camilo and Che were told to continue advancing to the capital without stopping and without giving respite. The rebel troops were approaching Santiago de Cuba. A scouting troop, which was sent to the Central Road, was told that as soon as they got to the Loma de Quintero, where an enemy battalion was posted, to give them 5 minutes to surrender or open fire. No truce was possible. We were approaching Santiago de Cuba through the north from Palma Soriano when the first contacts were made with the chiefs of the Santiago de Cuba garrison. The police chiefs surrendered immediately. The chiefs of two pretty powerful frigates—because of their weapons—docked in the Santiago de Cuba port surrendered. The chief of the naval district surrendered. The chiefs of the garrison asked to establish contact. This happened in the afternoon.

The first contacts were made. I told the chief of the Santiago de Cuba garrison that I wanted to meet with all the officers of the garrison. Those were very important steps because we did not know what was going to happen in the capital. Fighting would have taken place in the capital of the Republic had they been able to maintain a part of the Army loyal to them. It was extremely important to be able to liberate Santiago de Cuba. We believed it was decisive to be able to occupy Santiago de Cuba's weapons. It was especially important to spare bloodshed.

Undoubtedly, fighting would have been violent. Before the coup, we estimated that fighting around Santiago de Cuba would last around a week. We had already prepared the city's uprising. We already had over 100 weapons, the last ones manned inside the city of Palma Soriano. We already had a clear idea of how to conduct the operations regarding Santiago de Cuba. They would have undoubtedly been successful but they would have cost a number of lives, perhaps a large number of lives.

This is why I believe that it was decisive and fundamental to occupy the city without fighting. It would have been done if there was no other choice. Circumstances were good and violent fighting was unnecessary around and inside Santiago de Cuba. Anyone could assume that revolutionaries wanted to occupy the Moncada barracks and surrender it in the same way many other enemy posts surrender. Nobody should be driven by emotions under those circumstances. One has to attempt to reach the goals with the least possible loss of lives. This happened on that day.

If one analyzes things from a distance, one can see that the enemy Army had lost all its ability to resist at that time, all the ability to resist. Morale had been completely lost. There was an instance in which a patrol arrived in Loma de Quintero and went in. Nobody put up any resistance. It arrived at the headquarters.

Comrade Raul went to the headquarters to organize the meeting agreed on with the Santiago de Cuba garrison officers. He went inside the headquarters, took out a picture of Batista, tore it in front of all the officers [applause] [video shows Raul Castro] and talked to the troop. He went with the officers to the meeting they had with me. We did not ask them to surrender. I repeat, the situation was very confusing at that time. We did not ask them to surrender. We did not want to humiliate them.

We asked them to condemn the military coup. I denounced the maneuver of the ones who had carried out the coup. I denounced Cantillo, the one who had been their chief up to that time. I told them of the agreements we had reached and how they had failed to comply with them. I asked them to disregard Cantillo's orders and to side with us and they agreed.

I would say this was a truly generous proposal on our part and it was absolutely a correct one. The events in the rest of the country were not defined yet. We were interested in the frigates. We were interested in the tanks and artillery of Santiago de Cuba. We were also interested in those who knew how to use those weapons even though those forces had lost all ability to resist.

The enemy continued to maneuver. They sent a plane to the Isle of Pines—this is what it was called then—to get a group of officers who had conspired against Batista. Especially to get a colonel who had vindicated himself [se habia banado en el Jordan]. He really was not involved with Batista. He had acquired a certain degree of prestige precisely for having opposed him, for having conspired against him. He was in prison there on the island. They sent for him in an attempt to unite the Army. The group was called the pure ones [los puros]. This is how they were known nationally. They sent for Barquin, they took him to Columbia, and placed him at the head of the Army. All this happened on 1 January. Since that officer had a different reputation, he had struggled.... [leaves sentence unfinished]

They made this move in coordination with the American Embassy. The man arrived to the Columbia camp at night. The situation had not been decided yet when we were meeting here with the people of Santiago de Cuba. Camilo and Che were advancing that night. It would have to be determined historically at what exact time they began to advance. I do remember—although I cannot determine the exact time—that this colonel, the new chief of the Army replacing Cantillo—Cantillo stepped aside and handed over the command—wanted to establish telephone contact with me. I answered that I would not speak with anyone other than Camilo at the Columbia camp when he was in command. [applause]

All these events were taking place that night. As soon as we finished the ceremony here in the square, we took the tanks and artillery and went to Bayamo. We had to see what was happening with the Bayamo troops. The situation was not defined. It was not known what could

happen. We were gaining strength. The Bayamo troops joined us when we arrived in Bayamo. They had heavier tanks there, of higher caliber. They had artillery. All this was happening around 2 or 3 January.

Although journalists and historians have conducted a lot of research—a lot of good work gathering historic events of those times has been done—I believe more things need to be determined. More details need to be established. At what time did Camilo leave for the capital? At what time did Che leave? At what exact day and time did they arrive in the Columbia camp? At what time did they control the situation there?

So, on 2 January, while our forces were on their way to the capital as fast as possible, and considering what could happen there, Camilo and Che's troops were advancing through the road. Garrisons were surrendering without any fighting. The attempt made by those who promoted the coup, trying to get a leader, to release a figure from jail in an attempt to unite the Army and raise the Army's morale was in vain. I do not remember the exact dates but things began to be defined on 2 January, in the afternoon of 2 January. It was evident that there would be no more resistance.

The general strike took place in response to the call made by the rebel army through Radio Rebelde. The country was paralyzed from one end to the other in a very impressive way. That strike played a very important role. It was a terrible blow. It demoralized the enemy forces even more. It spared bloodshed. It saved lives. The workers of radio and television networks hooked up with Radio Rebelde and Radio Rebelde broadcast to the entire country through radio and television through all the stations at one point. People everywhere mobilized, including in the capital.

All these were important events. These factors helped to defeat the enemy's maneuvers and made possible the victory of the revolution, the full and total victory. It can be said that all garrisons in the country were under control and weapons were in the hands of the people 72 hours later. Thousands and thousands of militia men, tens of thousands of comrades, armed themselves in 3 days.

It could be said that the Army was left without weapons; not entirely, because some units kept their weapons. Especially those units that had decided to support us, those units that were committed with us; they kept their weapons for some time.

It was impossible for the revolution to maintain those units later when imperialist conspiracies and counterrevolutionary plans began in our country.

Camilo and Che fulfilled their missions and controlled the capital, the military forces of the capital at a given time. Our trip to Havana turned out to be more of a revolutionary trip, a political trip instead of a military trip.

All these things, or the great majority of the things I have mentioned, took place on 1 January. It was not only the day of victory but also the day of the counterattack, the countercoup, the general strike, and the advancement. This is why it was a day of fundamental decisions and important definitions.

I recall all this with the intention of noting the extremely important role the city of Santiago de Cuba played that day. [applause] To know, as the enemy did, that this was a combative, rebel, and heroic population was a very important factor in the lowering of the morale of the Batista troops in Santiago de Cuba. They were around 5,000 men. The forces with which we were preparing to take over the city were 1,200. Don't let anyone think they were few. That was going to be the time when we were going to have the largest troops. It was going to be the time when the enemy troops we were going to fight and ours were going to be closer in number. We had a little over one for every five soldiers. We always established the practice, of course, of not fighting one against five. We fought sections and created situations in the field which favored our forces.

There were two armies, the rebel army and the peoples' army; [applause] men, women, workers, students, the youth of Santiago de Cuba. The enemy was not able to bear that pressure. What occurred in Santiago de Cuba on the afternoon of 1 January, the overwhelming popular attendance of the city to that event on that night, the denouncement we made of all that had happened, the disloyalty of that military chief, and the maneuver, played a very big role in those events. It must have contributed considerably to the total demoralization of the enemy forces. This happened also in the capital of the Republic, which was 800 or 900 km away. Our small, fast, energetic army had also advanced those 900 km.

I have tried many times to estimate—it is not easy to do exactly—how many men with war weapons we had on that 1 January. There were around 3,000. The Batista forces, including the Navy and the police, were around 80,000 at that time. Therefore, I want to highlight not only the role of the combatants but also the role of the people and workers on that day. [appplause]

It is not that the city was liberated passively and it only limited itself to applaud or express joy. The city had had a long-standing participation of many years to make that liberation day possible. Our people also had a lot of active and heroic participation throughout the years everywhere. Of course, this was also the case in the capital of the Republic, but Santiago turned into a very important main character in these struggles because of a number of historic circumstances. Other cities such as Bayamo, Manzanillo, and Guantanamo also played important roles [applause] throughout our liberation war. We began our struggle in Santiago on 26 July 1953. Since then, the Santiago solidarity began to be expressed. Santiago had had an influence on us even before 26 July. When the coup d'etat took place on 10 March, the only

Cuban city where there were important popular movements and where the 10 March took the longest to gain strength was Santiago de Cuba. [applause]

We could say that Santiago and the eastern provinces influenced us throughout all our lives because of their outstanding role in the history of our fatherland. This history began even before a nation existed. When foreign invaders occupied the island, it was here in this eastern region where the Indians, who were extremely peaceful and gentle, gave the first example of courage and heroism when they were faced with the foreign invasion. This is where the first cities were founded. The struggles for independence began in this province from the beginning, since the feelings of a nation began. The first and the second war for independence—the fourth if you will if you include the small war—all these events took place in the eastern provinces. The cities of these provinces played a unique role in our liberation battles and Santiago de Cuba did it in an outstanding way. [applause]

One of the most admirable, most astonishing, most enlightening events of our history took place in this city, in these provinces, or in this eastern region formerly called Oriente Province. This was the Baragua protest written by Antonio Maceo, a son of Santiago de Cuba. [audience gives a standing ovation] The Leon group, sons of Mariana Grajales, and many more illustrious combatants and patriots came from this city.

Those eastern traditions played a large role in the history of our country. I believe that one of the successes of our generation and our revolutionary group was to have been convinced that those traditions of struggle, dignity, rebellion, and love for freedom and independence were firmly maintained in this region of the country. We believe, of course, that such feelings existed in the entire country, but they were maintained even stronger in these eastern regions. It was positive because it helped us get our struggle moving. It helped us select the scenery and the geography of our struggles, the topographic and human scenery of our struggles. These are not mere words to come and say in Santiago on a 1 January. Many years, over 30 years, are the proof of these events.

When we considered getting eastern young people organized, great young people—dedicated, disciplined, courageous, heroic—we only recruited one person from Santiago for the Moncada barracks attack. This was done, of course, with the idea of disinforming, to not raise suspicion regarding our plans. We had chosen to attack precisely Santiago de Cuba, Santiago de Cuba's garrison. Why did we not recruit people from Santiago? It was simply for one reason. Because we could count beforehand on the city of Santiago de Cuba, with all the people from Santiago. [applause]

We knew we had the support of Santiago de Cuba. If not, what sense would it have made to attack the Moncada and attempt to possess thousands of weapons? Who were those weapons for? For the people of Santiago. Such was our confidence in the heroic traditions, in the courage, the spirit of rebellion of this city.

It had an influence on us even much earlier than the Moncada. It was the part of the fatherland that we knew best. It was the part of the fatherland in which we spent a good deal of our childhood, the part of the fatherland to which a great part of our feelings and affection was linked. Santiago de Cuba and the eastern region had an influence even long before we were born. It influenced the history of the country. I have always thought that one of the most beautiful, most glorious histories is the history our people have written throughout over 100 years. I believe that if there was a heroic war or a much more heroic war than any other war, it was our 10-year war. A likewise extraordinary war was the last of our wars for independence in the last century. I believe that we have to make this rich source of history known, that the young people, adolescents, students, and the people learn about it. They should never forget it because the Cuba of today emerged from this history.

I have explained to foreign visitors many times how Cuba was the last one to free itself from Spain. I explained how at the time in which Bolivar, San Martin, O'Higgins, Sucre, Hidalgo, Morelos, and many other patriots were writing the history of the independence of America, which was a huge world that fought together during the difficult times of Spain's history, during the times in which the Napoleonic invasion had taken place and when a French king had been imposed in Spain.... [leaves sentence unfinished] The movement for independence of Latin America began during that exceptional time. All those countries fighting more or less at the same time obtained their independence.

Cuba was an enslaving society at that time. Cuba was an enslaving society. There were hundreds of thousands of slaves, especially in the western part of the country. The Spaniards owned the administration and commerce and had absolute control over the armed and domestic law enforcement forces. The creoles, the so-called creoles, owned the sugarcane and coffee plantations. They didn't even want to hear about independence. The idea of independence terrorized them, especially after the Haitian slaves' uprising. As a matter of fact, Haiti was the first country to free itself even before Bolivar, way before Bolivar. Haiti rebelled against the powerful French empire, against none other than Napoleon Bonaparte's troops. Creoles were terrified by the idea that a similar uprising would take place here. They thought that everything that had to do with dreaming about independence threatened their social class privileges.

This is the origin of annexationism. It was during that time when an entire social sector began to look toward the north. Those were the circumstances under which the United States also began to have annexationist feelings.

The southern states were against the northeastern industrialized states. The southern states opposed the end of slavery and wanted to have another state.

We were fooled in every possible way in the past. We were told, for example, that Narciso Lopez had been a precursor of independence. Actually, history proved later that Narciso Lopez arrived in Cuba encouraged, sponsored, and supplied by U.S. southern slave states.

He did not have such pro-independence ideals or goals but annexationist goals. Fate wanted, in this case, the defeat of those expeditions to help the independent future of the fatherland. That flag which we salute with so much respect, with such deserving respect, was raised by annexationists for the first time. Today it is our sovereign flag because the men who fought for our independence made it sovereign, made it heroic, made it immortal since 1968. [as heard]

Look at the things history teaches us. See how many things can happen when there is confusion. Nevertheless, our people were able to get out of all this confusion. The annexationist movement and sentiment lasted 100 [years]. The annexationist sentiment even continued throughout the Republic. What are they? What are all those who abandoned the fatherland, all those bourgeois, landowners, henchmen, wealthy sectors, confused sectors, or confused people? They are nothing more than the reminiscence of that enslaving period when the rich people did not even want to have a fatherland.

There were (?clearheaded) men in our history. There were men who, although they were rich, wanted a fatherland. They were willing to sacrifice their wealth for the fatherland, men such as Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, Vicente Aguilera, Ignacio Agramonte, and many more. They began their freedom struggles here in these provinces where there were less slaves. The vast majority of slaves were in the western part of the country. This is where sugarcane and coffee plantations had most thrived during the first half of last century. The struggle for independence began here where there were more free peasants, where there were less slavery supporters, where the wealthy were less reactionary, where those landowners were able to develop a national sentiment, a national identity, and an idea of a fatherland.

There was still some confusion in the Cuban political thinking when the war for independence began. This is shown in the first months of the war of'68. We have talked about this subject before on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Grito de Yara. See the importance of the ideas, of the concepts, of the clarity in each one of the decisive moments in history.

There are still traces of those times although at a much lesser degree. Above all, there was an identification once more between the interests of exploiting classes and anti-patriotic sentiments, pro-imperialism sentiments. This is why history and ideas are so important. I believe that on a day such as today it is fair to remember how those ideas that were deeply rooted in the people of the eastern part of the country played a fundamental role, a decisive role in the last liberation war.

I had forgotten to mention one of the great historic events that began in these provinces. It was the immortal feat of the invasion carried out by the Maceo and Maximo Gomez troops. [applause] All these events and factors greatly influenced our history. They had great influence in our last struggle for liberation. All those ideas and all these feelings came together in my mind on that 1 January 1959. It must be said that this spirit prevailed throughout these 30 years.

What made possible the historic feat of the internationalist missions of our revolutionary people, of our revolutionary people? [repeats] What made possible our men's actions in Cuito Cuanavale? [applause] What made possible the impetuous advance of our forces in Angola's southwest front? What made possible the victorious actions of Techipa, Calueque, and others that made possible the peace agreements signed recently? What made possible the marvelous internationalist spirit? What made possible this unselfishness, this exemplary solidarity of our people, of the Cubans? What made possible their actions when they were faced with each difficult task, each challenge? They were those sentiments that began to be planted in Yara, the patriotic sentiments. More than patriotic, they were internationalist. They were those sentiments that were planted in Baragua, the sentiments that continued in Baire, those sentiments that continued in the Mocana and "Granma" [applause] and emerged luminously on that 1 January 1959.

The history of a country is not written in a single day. The sentiments of a country are not forged in a single day. Our feelings were not forged in a day. In our history... [rephases] I do have the conviction that those feelings have been able to reach a very high level, a very high level which we can be proud of today. I am sure, I am sure [repeats] that our forefathers would also have been proud of them—those who fought in our wars for independence, our Mambises, who planted this fertile seed, those who fought and fell throughout our history, those who fought and fell in the Moncada, "Granma," and the Sierra Maestra, and those who have generously contributed with their blood to the noble and unsurmountable missions carried out by our people. [applause]

The heroic Baragua protest was not in vain, was not in vain [repeats himself] because it taught us revolutionary intransigence. It taught us loyalty to the principles. The blood shed by Marti was not in vain because it also taught us revolutionary intransigence and loyalty to principles. [applause] I am sure that they dreamed of a country such as this one. This is the significance of a 1 January. No matter how much it is mentioned or

repeated, one cannot capture its entire moral and historic dimension. In light of this, there is much more reason to be satisfied with that flag, with that title of hero city given to this city and to the eastern provinces of the country. [applause]

Today we remember the 30th anniversary, perhaps more calmly than that day but more aware than ever of our strength, with more belief than ever in the infinite moral qualities of our people, more convinced than ever that these provinces will be invincible bastions of the revolution [applause] as all Cuba is, where the seed of your example grew fertile. Our people are more united than ever with these historic ties. It was not for nothing that Havana sent us Marti, who fell in Dos Rios. His remains are kept in this city. It is not for nothing that Santiago sent Antonio Maceo to Havana. His remains are like a temple to our western compatriots.

This is why comrades from Santiago, veterans of our battles, men and women, adolescents, young or middle-age people, students, workers, eastern combatants, we are very pleased—very much—that we begin the fourth decade of the victorious revolution here in Santiago de Cuba. [applause]

Those who dream that the revolution will someday be defeated are fooling themselves. Those who dream about this ignore the fact that this revolution, which is the continuation of the history of our fatherland—which we could say is at its highest point—will mark 40, 50, 60, and 100 years. We have no doubts about it. [applause] Perhaps we will have to restore this building more than once. Perhaps these balconies will have to be reinforced, but I have no doubt that in each one of these historic days, someone will come here to talk about 1 January 1959 on the 40th, 50th, 60th, and 100th anniversary of the revolution. [crowd applauds and chants: Fidel! Fidel!]

What were we, what were we [repeats] on that 1 January? What did we have besides the bravery and courage of our people and our combatants, besides the desire for freedom, besides the urge to build a new fatherland? How many engineers did we have? How many planners, agriculture specialists, veterinarians, teachers, professors, cadres, doctors, specialists, officers, members of the PCC and our UJC [Union of Young Communists], workers unions, mass organizations did we have? We did not have any of these when we faced one of the most glorious pages of our history 30 years ago.

What started out to be a struggle against the privileged ones in our country, against the puppets, the mercenary army, owners of large estates and other landowners, and all kinds of exploiters.... [leaves sentence unfinished] What did we have when we began this struggle? What started as a confrontation with those interests and those factors later ended up being a struggle against aggression, threats, blockades, and the might of the most powerful empire in the history of humankind. And here we are because he have known how to resist during these 30 years in a way perhaps very few believed possible, in a way perhaps no one in the world could have imagined. Here we are 30 years later. We are here after 30 years of hard, courageous, and intelligent struggle by our people against all threats and against all risks.

We couldn't even dream then about what we have now. We have hundreds of thousands of teachers, professors, technicians. We have tens of thousands of engineers, planners, agriculture specialists, all types of specialists. We have tens of thousands of doctors today to look after our peoples' health. We have 10 times more doctors than the doctors we were left with here at the triumph of the revolution, of the doctors imperialism left us. We have an enormous intellectual and technical force. We have healthy and vigorous young people. They are great. They have been capable of writing the feats of these decades. We have youths who, I am sure, are better every day [applause] and are more and more capable of firmness and heroism.

We count on this and the extraordinary experience accumulated by our people in these 30 years to face the future. If a lot has been done—mistakes aside, deficiencies aside—we will be able to do more in the future. I am sure that we can turn each year into 2 years, in 3 years, in 4 years with what we have. This is what we are trying to do at this time.

On that 1 January, a day of definitions, something was said that had yet to be said because the history of deceit had been very long, the history of politicasters throughout the mediatized Republic.

We had to say that it was the real thing this time, that a coup d'etat could not be mistaken for a revolution. It was one of the big things our people learned about on that 1 January, to forestall maneuvers and destroy them. Our people wanted changes. Our people wanted a revolution and changes had to be deep, they had to be fundamental. The exploitation society had to disappear. We told the people the revolution triumphed this time, the revolution's postulates would be fulfilled this time.

I will never forget it. This was basically what we said on 1 January. The basic principles and the basic goals of our revolution were proclaimed after the events of the Moncada attack. This was done twice here in Santiago; there, when we were being tried because of the Moncada attack, and here, on 1 January.

Today I say with the deepest conviction that our revolution will continue to go forward. Our revolution is a true revolution because it is a socialist revolution and because it is a Marxist-Leninist revolution.

Socialism is something that could not be talked about on 1 January in the midst of the McCarthyist spirit which had prevailed in the media and the people's tendencies, in the midst of the existing confusion. But the revolution

*did not wait too long to talk about socialism. If it was* said that a true revolution would take place, a true revolution could not exist in our country without socialism. This is why on that 16 April, only 2 years after 1 January, when our combatants were getting ready to face or were preparing to face the mercenary invasion and perhaps the imperialist attack, the socialist character of our revolution was proclaimed. Not too long after, not only was socialism mentioned, but the Marxist-Leninist character of our socialist revolution was proclaimed.

Today, 30 years later, on this 1 January, we can assure that our people will always be faithful to the principles of socialism, that our people will always be faithful to the principles of Marxism-Leninism, that our people will always be loyal to the principles of internationalism. Since we are unshakably faithful to those principles, we will try, struggle, and work to make our revolution better every day, to make it more and more efficient, to make it each day more perfect. In these times of confusion, in which our revolution frightens reactionaries of the world so much and threatens imperialism so much and stands as a lighthouse before the eyes of the world, at this time and on this 1 January, we can affirm that we are aware of the enormous responsibility our revolutionary process has toward the peoples of the world, the workers of the world, and especially toward the peoples of the Third World. We will always know how to be worthy of this responsibility.

This is why, let us say louder than ever, socialism or death, Marxism-Leninism or death! [applause] This is what it means today what we have repeated throughout all these years so many times. Fatherland or death, we will win. [crowd shouts: We will win!] [applause]

### Chief of Verification Group Arrives in Luanda

*FL0301233489 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2234 GMT 3 Jan 89*

[Text] Brazilian General Pericles Ferreira Gomes has arrived in Luanda, Angola as chief of the verificiation commission for the return of the Cuban internationalist troops. The UN Security Council nominated the Brazilian officer as commander of the contingent which will carry out the verification, in accordance with an Angolan-Cuban request.

In a news conference upon his arrival in Luanda, the chief of the verification commission for the return of the Cuban internationalist troops in Angola said he is certain he will not encounter difficulties in his mission. He said that the presence of the group, as requested by the delegations of Angola and Cuba, will serve to carry out the goals proposed by the two countries and help the Angolan people.

### Nujoma: SWAPO Fighting Changes to Resolution

*FL3112021388 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 31 Dec 88*

[Remarks by Sam Nujoma, leader of the South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO, for the National Television Newscast; in English with simultaneous Spanish translation; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Nujoma] SWAPO is fighting strongly against all attempts to amend UN Security Council Resolution 435 and the demands that Resolution 435 be implemented without any change or amendment. We know, too, that forces of imperialism are now busy attempting to weaken Resolution 435 in order to create favorable conditions for the apartheid regime and to put SWAPO in a disadvantaged position.

We are grateful that many countries, particularly members of the Coordinating Bureau of the nonaligned countries, have come out in support of the SWAPO position against the imperialist maneuvers to amend Resolution 435.

## Fulfillment of Southern Africa Accords Viewed

### Ambassador in Lagos Cited

*AB3112122288 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Dec 88*

[Text] Cuba has called on member states of the OAU and the nonaligned nations to ask for the total fulfillment of the terms of Resolution 435 and the agreement signed recently in New York on the issue of Namibian independence. The Cuban ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Juan Infante Dilu, made the call in Lagos yesterday while briefing African ambassadors in Nigeria on the latest developments on Namibia. He stressed that the terms of the United Nations resolution be strictly adhered to in the interest of peace in southern Africa. The ambassador pointed out that any reduction in the military or civilian component of the resolution would seriously jeopardize guarantees against intimidation, erode cohesion, and other civil rights during the transition period. Mr Dilu contended that any reduction in the United Nations budget for the assistance group might also affect the movement of Namibian refugees voluntarily returning to their country from neighboring states to participate in the elections.

Responding on behalf of his colleagues, the doyen of African diplomats and Cote d'Ivoire's ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Desire Amon Tanoe, thanked the Cuban ambassador for the briefing. He pledged that the information would be passed on to the respective countries.

### Former Envoy on Withdrawal

*PA3112010488 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Dec 88*

[Report by Barbara Bethancourt on statements by Rodolfo Puentes Ferro, former Cuban Ambassador to Angola; date and place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The agreement recently signed in New York by the Cuban, Angolan, and South African Governments to end the South African conflict has caused great surprise throughout the world. The racist regime in Pretoria will finally leave Namibian territory it has occupied since 1915.

Following the signing of the agreement, Cuba and Angola signed another agreement concerning the return of Cuban internationalists to their homeland after fighting for 13 years beside their Angolan brothers against the constant South African aggressions.

The signing ceremony, held at UN headquarters, concludes a lengthy and difficult negotiation process that required 14 meetings between the parties, with the United States acting as mediator, over the last year. You may have noticed that I said over the last year. I said this because Cuba's and Angola's interest in settling the South African conflict dates back to 1975. Rodolfo Puentes Ferro, former Cuban ambassador to Angola, had this to say in that regard:

[Puentes Ferro] "On 27 March 1975, the South Africans crossed the border into Namibian territory, but they were defeated by Cuban internationalist and Angolan fighters. Another army, consisting of mercenaries who had invaded northern Angola, was also defeated.

"An historical event had taken place. The powerful South African Army had been defeated, even though it was believed invincible. The mercenary myth was also broken. One month after the South Africans' 27 March defeat—on 23 April to be exact—a joint program was launched with Angola for the Cuban troops' gradual withdrawal—better still, the gradual return of the victorious Cuban troops who had just defeated the South Africans.

"This program was begun and then interrupted in May 1978, when the South Africans attacked (Casiga) on 5 May. Also in the same year and the same month, but 1 day earlier, on 4 May NATO troops threatened Angola's northeastern area, which forced us to interrupt the withdrawal program and reinforce the area. This threatened the Angolan revolution. Once again a program was begun and then interrupted by South African attacks on (?Chiume), Huila Province. After the attacks, the withdrawal program resumed, only to be interrupted again by the South African invasion south of Cunene using armored equipment and their Air Force. They occupied part of southern Cunene and the Cuando-Cubango Province."

Knowing all this, one must ask: Why now and not before? The South Africans agreed to discuss compliance with UN Resolution 435? Puentes Ferro claims he knows why:

[Puentes Ferro] "Cuito Cuanavale. For 10 years, the international community, the Nonaligned, the OAU, and the UN did not manage...[changes thought] I believe they contributed. I say that the final blow came with the victories of the Cuban internationalists of the [words indistinct] and the fighters at Cuito Cuanavale, where South African troops suffered a great defeat."

### Malmierca Reportedly Voices Support for Libya

*LD0401091789 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0807 GMT 4 Jan 89*

[Text] Havana, 4 Jan JANA—Cuban Minister of Foreign Relations Isidoro Malmierca met yesterday with the brother member of the people's committee of the people's bureau for foreign liaison.

The Cuban minister of foreign relations voiced his country's support for the Libyan Arab people against the American threats.

### Medical Team Returns From Soviet Union

*FL3012200588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Dec 88*

[Text] Staff members of the immunoassay center who traveled to Armenia with SUMA [Ultra Microanalytic System] equipment returned to our country last night. Public Health Minister Julio Teja went to the airport to receive them. Dr Jose Luis Fernandez Yeras, director of the immunoassay center, headed this team which was greeted by Soviet Ambassador to Cuba Yuriy Petrov.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified first speaker in Spanish with simultaneous Russian translation] Practically normal everyday life scenes are seen in the cities. In Moscow, we saw some television reports on the treatment given to people who have been evacuated to Moscow hospitals. We believe that now the most important thing is the recovery of.... [leaves sentence unfinished]

[Unidentified second speaker in Russian with simultaneous Spanish translation] How did you work there?

[First speaker] We worked very well. There was excellent coordination at the [word indistinct] republic hospital. We installed the equipment and it was operating in less than 24 hours. We started to train hospital personnel to operate the equipment from the 1st day. We worked with them at the hospital all the time until we got word that the commander in chief had donated the equipment. We

believe they have an initial training that will enable them to work. It would be good to complete the training on other techniques of some hospital staff members in Havana in the future.

We are very impressed by the expressions of appreciation we received there every day. Everywhere we went, they stopped us in the streets and they thanked us. The female comrades received flowers in the streets several times.

[Second speaker] We are very pleased with the great work you have carried out. We are very grateful for that work. The only thing is that your comrades did not go to our embassy when we [words indistinct] all Cuban comrades. At this time, we thank you all for the great work Cuban doctors performed in Armenia. This is why we are here today to [words indistinct] and express our gratitude. [end recording]

## Electronic Agreement With USSR Signed

*PA3012191688 Havana International Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 30 Dec 88*

[Text] Cuba and the USSR have signed a 22-million-ruble contract in Moscow for the development of the Cuban electronic industry.

The documents signed between the Cuban enterprise (Mexin) and the Soviet (Petmintorp) guarantee the supply to Cuba of 15,000 color television sets and the parts needed to assemble 45,000 color sets in our country.

According to the contract, the USSR will also send to Cuba 30,000 black-and-white television sets; 20,000 tape recorders; and spare parts.

## Visiting Cardinal Views Role of Church

*FL3112041288 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0021 GMT 31 Dec 88*

[Interview with French Cardinal (Roger Echegaray), president of the Pontifical Commission of Justice and Peace, by Perla Marina Alcober during "Exclusivo" program hosted by Daniel Torres—live]

[Text] [Alcober] Good evening, Daniel, and good evening, Cuba. Our microphones today find themselves, for the first time, in the Pontifical Nunciature, or embassy of the Holy See in the Vatican, to obtain exclusive statements from French Cardinal (Roger Echegaray), president of the Pontifical Commission of Justice and Peace.

The prelate has held masses in several cities throughout the country after arriving in Havana from the Vatican, in Rome. He has, with all generosity, agreed to give us this interview.

Monsignor, good evening. If you will permit me, I would like to start by asking you: What vision did you have of Cuba and our people before this meeting?

[(Echegaray)] It is a country spoken about very much throughout the world. It is a country that has a very important role. That is why upon my arrival in Cuba I dared to say that Cuba is more of a continent than an island. I have always been interested in the ancient and recent history of this country which has fought for its independence and identity for so long. I had the vision of a stressed and [words indistinct] people who, in spite of their own difficulties, have known how to (?aid) the needs of other countries.

[Alcober] Monsignor, after being here a few days and visiting various places on the island, do you still have the same impression?

[(Echegaray)] Up to now, my contact has been limited to the special community [as heard]. However, I have seen that it is a nation that has made very great efforts to reach a good level of development in many fields, and this has been done under circumstances that are not easy. It gives me satisfaction to see that education is reaching everyone and that health care is extended to the population. It also gives me satisfaction to see that the scandalous amount of poverty has gone down.

[Alcober] I would like to know how you evaluate your ministry's development and the pastoral work that you are doing in Cuba, as well as the housing of the believers with which you have had contact. Have you found any difficulties? Could you please tell me about this?

[(Echegaray)] I have found no difficulties. I have already visited all of the dioceses outside of Havana, from Pinar del Rio to Matanzas, Santa Clara, Camaguey, Holguin, and Santiago. I still have to meet the Christian community of Havana. I will have the opportunity to do this on 1 January at the 1700 mass that will be held at the cathedral. This tour has given me the chance to see that the Church is alive in Cuba. I have been impressed by how deep the religious roots are in the Cuban mountains. This is seen in the active and numerous participation of the faithful which express—and sing, they sing—their faith in all the masses I have celebrated.

Also, the presence of many young people in these celebrations has caught my attention. Speaking with the Christians that are more involved in the Church, they have expressed their wishes to participate, always more actively, in the building of a just and peaceful society in Cuba.

[Alcober] Well, Monsignor, a final question: Do you expect to meet with authorities of the Cuban Government? How do you see these meetings you will have? What results do you think they will have?

[(Echegaray)] Of course, I am sure that these meetings will be very useful in helping the relations that the Church in Cuba is developing with its own authorities.

[Torres] Cardinal (Roger Echegaray), let me ask something of you. I would like you to send the Cuban people a personal message when, in only a few hours, the old year will end. If you would be so kind, please.

[(Echegaray)] A message for the Cuban people.

[Torres] That is correct.

[(Echegaray)] With pleasure. It will be short but warm: In these days, in which New Year's greetings are exchanged throughout the world, I want our greetings to have the freshness of Christmas, peace and joy. All can be truly new for whoever believes in man and God. Everything is one, because one cannot live without the other. So, to all the Cuban people, peace and joy with all my heart.

## Intellectuals' Letter Praises Revolution

### 'Cultural Achievement' Cited

*FL3112025088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 31 Dec 88*

[Text] A group of prestigious Cuban authors and artists has sent a letter to our commander in chief, Fidel Castro, as a worthy salute to the 30th anniversary of the revolution's triumph.

Now, as always, 30 years after 1 January, the authors and artists of Cuba see ourselves in the Cuban Revolution, the most important cultural achievement of our history.

The triumph of the rebel army, 3 decades ago, meant the nation's definite rescue, something which had not been realized at that time. It laid the foundation for man's dignity to become a reality in our country. From that time until now, we have again found in our roots the path to the cultural productivity which has its deepest origin in the thoughts of men such as Varela and Marti. They are the men who established the unsoluble tie between culture and liberty. This liberty is today the source of artistic creativity and the base of our labor for which there is no substitute.

Cuba's voice, first smothered by colonialism and later by imperialism, reached its corresponding stature with the revolution and is today admired and respected by the most noble and progressive in the world.

Ever since the literacy campaign and the extensive work done in education, the receptive public grew in unimaginable numbers, putting into our work the vital breath all writers and artists desire.

Far beyond Cuba's frontiers, the revolution opened a new chapter in the history of the Third World. In our America, the Cuban Revolution is comparable only to the chapters opened by the Haitian revolution and the wars of Bolivar. On this occasion, the revolution has expanded beyond the continent and has become a large internationalist task which is a sovereign example of the beautiful way our people have contributed to obtaining Namibia's independence and signing the agreements on Angola's liberty, as well as other African nations.

The liberty we salute, the one made possible by our revolution, is not deceitful or rhetorical. It is a concrete reality which symbolizes life to millions of human beings faced with the death offered by colonialism, imperialism, racism, and their followers.

Dear Comrade Fidel, we know the role you have had in making a place for Cuba in the world by putting it in the service of the best causes. We Cubans are fewer than the inhabitants of any of today's enormous cities, but our responsibility, which Marti called Cuba's duty, is great; Cuba's friends and enemies know this. Let them all know that we, also makers of dreams, are today and always with you.

### Commentary Voices Support

*FL3112013388 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0016 GMT 31 Dec 88*

[Commentary by Juan Hernandez Diaz from National Division during "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] Just because we have heard it many times, the phrase "The revolution is the most important cultural achievement in Cuba's history," has not stop moving us with its beautiful truth.

Culture has the duty, the obligation, of working for the betterment of humanity, as Marti said. There is no betterment of humanity without having dignity, conquering liberty, or winning independence. Just the same, there is no culture if man, besides knowing how to read and write, does not have access to education or creation of his equals [creacion de sus semejantes], cannot exercise his abilities to do or think, and finally, if man does not know.

Over 100 Cuban artists and authors have just sent Commander in Chief Fidel Castro a letter in which they state that they know the role the supreme leader of our revolution played in placing Cuba in the world, at the service of the best causes, and in opening a new chapter in the history of the Third World.

Those Cuban authors and artists, the ones that signed the letter and the ones who adhere to it—they are the true Cuban authors and artists—know that without the revolution there would be no culture, understood to its full capacity, in Cuba.

It was not culture having our screens invaded by U.S. films, which negated the existence of other cinematographic productions. It was not culture that (Onelio

Jorge Cardozo), (Eliceo Diego), (Jose Lesa Malima), or (Regino Pedrozo) had to pay to print their own books. Also, it was not culture that art gallery doors were closed to (Rene Porto Carrero), (Victor Manuel), or (Amelia Pelay). It was not culture that theater was almost nonexistent or that Alicia Alonso's ballet had to be paid for out of her own pocket or from public collections. Also, it was not culture that, of 5 million inhabitants, 1 million did not know how to read and write or that (Mazorra) was the Cuban symbol for hell. Culture was not hundreds of thousands of unemployed useful people or thousands of children walking through streets and roads with outstretched arms asking for alms.

What culture can be spoken of with images like those and many others? Culture can only be spoken of when thousands of men and women strip themselves of their selfishness and go to other countries to fight, build, cure, and teach. Culture can only be spoken of when schools and universities are filled with the people. Culture can only be spoken of when 10 million Cubans defend their dignity, independence, and sovereignty with the weapons which belong to them.

There are 100 signatures on the letter that was sent to Fidel. However, if someone had thought of asking the people for their signatures, there would have been 10 million signatures on that letter because, today, 10 million Cubans own culture, as much as they own their land. This support has been shown time and time again throughout these 30 years and it will continue to be shown time and time again every time it is necessary, because in Cuba what exists once and for all is a nation in revolution.

### Writers Condemn Letter Calling for Plebiscite

*PA3012171788 Havana International Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 30 Dec 88*

[Text] The entire world continues to reject the letter signed by a group of intellectuals that compares Cuba with Chile and demands that the Cuban Revolution hold a plebiscite such as the one held by the Pinochet dictatorship last October.

Ecuadoran writer Raul Perez Torres said the plebiscite idea can only come from the minds of ultrarightist intellectuals led by Peruvian Mario Vargas Llosa.

Ecuadorans Edmundo Rivadeneira and Jorge Enrique Adoum also thought the idea was absurd. I do not see why people like Vargas Llosa and Frenchman Yves Montand have to tell Fidel Castro what to do, said Adoum, who also commented on the lack of impartiality of the two intellectuals.

Ecuadoran novelist Alfredo Pareja Diaz Canseco said those types of plebiscites are held by fascists. The real plebiscite was held in Cuba 30 years ago with the victory of the revolution.

American journalist (Charles Snook), Mexican poet (Jaime Savim), German essayist (Jorg Brull), and Argentine writer Ricardo Howard, as well as numerous political, social, and cultural organizations from Latin America, Europe, Asia, and Africa, have also condemned the letter.

### Isle of Youth Reports to ANPP on Progress

*FL3012192788 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Dec 88*

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The work of the revolution in the Isle of Youth during the past 30 years is the essence of the report presented by the special muncipality to the Fourth Regular Session of the Third ANPP [National Assembly of the People's Government].

Miguel Alvarez Fanz, president of the gorvernmental organization on the island, was in charge of reading the report which summarizes the work by the Isle of Youth residents during the past years. According to delegates and guests, the report was very complete and backed up by data which [words indistinct] have been developed to turn the special municipality into what it is today.

In the citrus fruit industry, for example, which is the main economic resource of the island, the production for 1977 was 24,000 metric tons. By 1987 it reached 150,000 metric tons, 120,000 of which were exported. In the late sixties, the capacity for damming up water was none. The hydraulic revolution, which began at that time, made it possible for the island to have today 13 dams available which dam up 189 million cubic meters of water. The report mentions that marble production, prior to the revolution, did not even reach 350 cubic meters; currently, the production is over 10,000. It was also reported that there are now 10 factories for the ceramincs industry on the island. There are approximately 2,000 workers in them who last year produced 9 million units.

Since the triumph of the revolution, a series of transformations have taken place in the whole fishing industry. It included the actual fishing process as well as the industrial activity. Special attention is also now being given to the living conditions of the fish industry workers. The number of tons of fish caught in 1987 showed an increase of 135 percent in relation to what was caught 10 years ago.

With regard to social development, the report mentions that in 1959 the island's population was not even 11,000 inhabitants. Today it is 94,000, 18,000 of which are foreign students from over 30 countries.

The report also talks about achievements in the health sector. Prior to the revolution the island had three doctors; today there are 278—one for each 350 residents.

As for achievements in the field of education, a good example is that in the 1962 census, 17 percent of the population was illiterate and there were only 7 schools. However, the enrollment for the current school year is over 138,000 students, distributed throughout 120 educational centers.

Overall, the report gives a concise summary of the Cuban Revolution's impressive work during 30 years of revolution. The work required enormous efforts and great sacrifices by thousands of men and women from all over the country with the aim of creating the basis for the results we can see today. It is also noted that these great achievements could have been greater if we would have been more efficient, economical, and more flexible in finding solutions to various problems.

The Isle of Youth report also includes the preliminary proposals for the future development of the municipality up to the year 2,000. These proposals are basically centered on the production of 400,000 tons of citrus fruits and substantial increases in areas such as marble, fishing, mines, and ceramincs.

It also states the need to solve the current limitations in the port with the dredging and expansion of the Las Casas River during the first stage. The second stage would include the creation of facilities for [word indistinct] and operations and in a new port with greater depth.

[Begin recording] [Castro] Have you studied the area, over there in the eastern... [rephrases] or western part of the island, where the causeway for the port will be built?

[Unidentified speaker] Yes. Those studies are being carried out now, and plans are being made.

[Castro] Where are you getting the stone for the first causeway we need to build, for the port causeway? When we first had the idea of the causeway, we had the idea of solving the port problem with a causeway. The plan was considered extremely expensive, some outrageous amount needed to be dredged. Now, a causeway... [rephrases] how long would the causeway be?

[Unidentified speaker] It should be 1.5 or 1.8 km, something like that.

[Castro] [Words indistinct] whole kilometer, you would get to the area where the piers have to be built.

[Unidentified speaker] It needs to be 9 meters deep.

[Castro] So, it needs to be 9 meters deep. Did you also need to dredge 9 meters there?

[Unidentified speaker] No. With the causeway, we reached the 9 meters.

[Castro] So, almost no dredging would be necessary?

[Unidentified speaker] No, almost no dredging would be necessary. We (?would) do the causeway, and then we would do the port project for [word indistinct] right?

[Castro] Yes, it would be for loading there.

[Unidentified speaker] Now, we are looking for stone there. We are looking exactly in that zone to try to (?find it).

[Castro] Have you found it yet?

[Unidentified speaker] Yes, we have. There is a hill from which we can extract stone. However, we want to make a detailed study.

[Castro] When can you begin working on the causeway for the port?

[Unidentified speaker] As soon as the plan is completed, Commander. I believe it will be ready next year, at the middle or end of next year.

[Castro] Can you begin working by the middle of next year? Do you have an idea of where to begin building the causeway?

[Unidentified speaker] Well, we can begin working up to that point, because there is a part that...

[Castro, interrupting] Don't you have to build a section of a highway? How far from the edge is that hill with stone?

[Unidentified speaker] It must be approximately 3 km away.

[Castro] That is the important thing, to have the stone supply nearby—a truck can carry a lot of stone.

You should already be planning the formation of the contingent which will build the port causeway so that it can be started next year. If not, you will not have a port by the date you have set. You are going to build a causeway in 1 year?

[Unidentified speaker] We estimate it will be approximately 300,000 cubic meters, so it can be done in less than that. [end recording]

During this 2d day's morning session, once again the subject of the future possibilities for solving the urban transportation problem was brought up. The commander in chief reported that by next year, [words indistinct] Roman engines. He explained why it is impossible to use them on the Giron 6 omnibuses, according to an analysis made by the (?steel) industry.

[Begin recording] [Castro] We have already tested the use of the Roman engine in Giron-6 omnibuses, and it cannot be adequately used. The reasons are: It is too

powerful, the speed box would also have to be changed, and other modifications would have to be made. It is too heavy, and it overloads the [words indistinct]. It is also very large and difficult to make it fit in the available space. However, in January we will have a new Taino-10 engine, 110 horsepower, 4 cylinders. We will try it on the Giron-6. [Words indistinct] this means some expense, since we are not building this engine yet, we are getting parts for it. [Words indistinct] it could cost us between $2,000 and $2,300. This is the investment for the Taino engine; 4 cylinders, and 110 horsepower. This is the type of ideal engine for the Giron-6. It seems this would solve the problem, although some money would have to be spent. However, it is not much money if you consider the value one of these omnibuses would have. We will also have in January the first Taino 3-cylinder engine, 70 horsepower. This one would be used for the minibuses. We are already building the minibuses. It would be for approximtely 10 passengers. This idea was strongly expressed here yesterday, and later in the afternoon we found out that this Roman engine could not be used. Of course, this doesn't really affect us. We may not be able to use it on the Giron; however, we can use it on thousands and thousands of trucks, (?and on) the SIL which uses up to so much gas. The fact that [words indistinct] doesn't matter, because that engine has great use, but not on the Giron-6. I thought I should clarify this so that we don't give wrong information. [end recording]

This regular session of the ANPP unanimously approved the new housing general law. There was also extensive debate by several deputies on the prices given to citizens for the request of a construction project.

[Begin recording] [Castro] Are you an architect?

[Unidentified speaker] Yes.

[Castro] How much does it cost to draw up a plan?

[Unidentified speaker] Well, I don't think that... [rephrases] Because, it should not take more than 2 days to draw up a housing plan. The typical projects already drawn up by the housing industry are copied, and they charge the same as if they had made them.

[Castro] That is right, but it doesn't mean (?it is) necessarily a business. We are not making a business out of the housing industry.

[Unidentified speaker] That is why we...

[Castro, interrupting] If the [words indistinct], what do you think would be a reasonable price?

[Unidentified speaker] A reasonable price would be 100 pesos, for example. But I do not think we should put a price on it. Maybe we should set a margin, or some way that we can evaluate it.

[Castro] Besides, not all plans are the same.

[Unidentified speaker] Of course not. Besides, the effort it takes to do it...

[Castro, interrupting] [Words indistinct] You, [name indistinct] who have worked on a lot of typical plans in Camaguey, how do you deal with this matter?

[Unidentified speaker] My opinion is that there are typical and atypical plans. The atypical plan is a bit more expensive than the typical, because not all places make the same facade, construction. However, I do agree that this should be analyzed because it should not be...

[Castro, interrupting] This should not be turned into an obstacle.

[Unidentified speaker] There are whole areas where there isn't much variation. They are replicas of the same houses. But other areas do change. However, in all cases there are two or three options. But it is expensive.

[Castro] [Passage indistinct]

[Unidentified speaker] She is right, however. It shouldn't take more than 2 days to make all the calculations and do everything that is needed. I think it is fair that this be reviewed. If the problem is the number of architects we have, or what they earn, or the hours they work, we should see how much work they have. They should do other things too. That is what Fidel talked to us about a long time ago. It is also what we talk about now. A project would become more expensive depending on the number of hours that were dedicated to it. This is the same way that it would increase [word indistinct]. That is the way the wood (?framework) and all that would increase in price. So, if that is the problem, we will simply end up spending more.

[Castro] [Words indistinct] the international practice of paying a percentage of the value of the project. The more expensive the project, the more expensive the plans were. However, that is a service that could even be subsidized if we wanted. That shouldn't become an obstacle to drawing up a plan and to building the projects with good quality. If all the calculations are made [words indistinct]. That is why I asked how much it would cost the architect to draw it up. It could be something more economical. This matter of the plan prices (?is) a general concern. [passage indistinct] There are some products and materials here whose cost is well above [words indistinct]. However, if the matter of the plans was a problem, we could [word indistinct], especially those which are sold in a series. As a matter of fact, that is probably what would turn out less expensive. We would have to look into this because, as you have said, the atypical project is more expensive than the prototype, the one done in a series. I think that [word indistinct] with the people from housing, and have them analyze it,

and come up with some formula to make the housing plans less expensive. It should be done in the (?interest) of the country. [end recording]

During the 2d day of work of the ANPP, other documents have been approved. Some of these are the reports from the health environment and communal services commission on the use, contamination, and presevation of underground water. Other reports were also given by the Council of State and by the Council of Ministers.

### Farming Report Closes Session

*FL3012163088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Dec 88*

[Text] The cooperative and peasant sector produced 16 million quintals of tubers, vegetables, and grains this year. Orlando Lugo Fonte, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the ANAP [National Association of Small Farmers], made the closing remarks at the 2-day fourth plenum of the ANAP National Committee which took place at the Niceto Perez National Cadre School in Havana Province.

Lugo Fonte said that tuber and vegetable production grew 11 percent compared to last year. The final session of the meeting included a discussion of the development of the cooperativization process. The necessary support to young people who join cooperatives and the introduction of new technical and scientific concepts in work were the main issues.

The reports on the new organization of the ANAP and the modifications of the organization's main regulations were discussed and approved.

Orlando Lugo Fonte spoke during the closing ceremony. [Begin Lugo Fonte recording] I believe that the only way, the best way we peasants and cooperative members have to express to Fidel the infinite gratitude for having signed—first for having made the revolution and bringing us freedom, and later—the Agrarian Reform Law, is to work and fully devote ourselves to work, fully devote ourselves to finding solutions and obtaining more prosperity for the benefit of the country's economy, for the benefit of the construction of socialism in our fatherland.

Working relations between the Agriculture and Sugar Industry Ministries have never been as they are today. Instead of deteriorating, they will continue to grow because the main goal of the Agriculture Ministry is to produce goods, resources [words indistinct] always and their plans [words indistinct] will be next to the Agriculture Ministry to achieve the goal which is the task assigned by the commander in chief. [end recording]

## Haiti

### Ex-Mayor of Port-au-Prince Leaves Country

*FL0301115589 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 3 Jan 89*

[Text] In Haiti, military government has allowed an alleged leader of the Tonton Macoutes secret police organization to leave the country.

Former Port-au-Prince Mayor Franck Romain was allowed to leave the country over the weekend for Santo Domingo.

There has been protesting against him for alleged human rights abuses and it is said that he headed up the September church massacre in Port-au-Prince.

## El Salvador

### Army Reports 23 Rebel Casualties 23-30 Dec

*PA0301191389 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Jan 89*

[Text] The Salvadoran Armed Forces Joint Staff has reported that the Army killed 4 guerrillas and wounded 19 others between 23 and 30 December 1988.

The military said that during the same week, soldiers throughout the country seized 12 large-caliber rifles from the FMLN and defused 33 booby traps.

Military sources also reported that FMLN guerrillas caused considerable losses to humble homes in La Union and Santa Rosa de Lima by destroying power poles and towers. The sources said these actions caused anxiety and sorrow among the families living in those homes.

### FMLN Reports on Military Actions, Sabotage

#### 186 Army Casualties Claimed

*PA0301233489 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 2 Jan 89*

[Text] The following is a repeat of this week's military count. As we have reported, we inflicted a total of 186 casualties on the Army during this week. This includes three lieutenants, two sergeants, and three corporals. We also carried out 8 ambushes that caused 112 casualties. Two military operations were carried out during the week: one in Chalatenango and the other in the Paracentral Front. These operations were followed by extensive sabotage and propaganda activities. Our mines caused 47 casualties. We sabotaged eight buildings, including the customs facilities in El Poy; two coffee farms; the Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission offices in San Miguel; and the houses of Christian Democratic Party leaders. Our urban commandos carried out three sabotage and armed propaganda actions in San Salvador.

#### Further on Recent Clashes

*PA0301223789 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 3 Jan 89*

[Text] A guerrilla unit ambushed Morazan Battalion troops with antipersonnel mines in Cerro Gallito, Yamabal Jurisdiction, on 2 January, killing one enemy and wounding two.

On 31 December, guerrillas attacked Military Detachment No 4 troops in Guatajiagua, forcing the enemy to pull back and take refuge in a populated area.

It has been reported to us from the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front in Cabanas that in clashes near Villa Victoria on (?15) December, our forces killed four Military Detachment No 2 troops and wounded four.

## Nicaragua

### Contras Outline Peace Proposal, Timetable

*PA0301142889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1929 GMT 2 Jan 89*

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 2 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Jorge Rosales, a spokesman for the Nicaraguan rebels, told ACAN-EFE today that the Nicaraguan contras are prepared to put down their weapons and join Nicaragua's political process if a peace proposal that they will soon present to the Sandinists is accepted and implemented.

The rebels said discussion of this proposal, which is called the "Timetable for an Overall Agreement for Democratization and a Permanent Cease-Fire in Nicaragua," should begin at OAS headquarters in Washington on 25 January. The proposal suggests that the negotiations involve OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares as a witness, Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, and the Executive Commission for Verification of the Esquipulas II agreements, which is comprised of the Central American foreign ministers.

Rosales is a member of the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) Public Relations Commission in Miami. He told ACAN-EFE over the telephone that "first a peace agreement that includes this timetable must be signed with the Sandinists."

The rebel timetable states that 5 days after the peace agreement is signed, the Sandinists will decree a general amnesty, grant freedom of expression, suspend military recruitment for 60 days, and permit the RN troops to receive supplies. Similarly, 7 days after the agreement is signed, the Nicaraguan Government will move EPS and state security troops out of the seven areas agreed upon as enclaves for the RN at Sapoa in April. Once the Sandinist troops have moved out of the enclaves, the contras will begin to transfer all of their troops to the enclaves, even though this poses a threat to their security.

On the 10th day after the agreement is signed, the national dialogue will be resumed with the participation of the RN, the ban on carrying out and publishing private opinion surveys will be lifted, and the media will be allowed to use foreign exchange to purchase material and spare parts so they can function fully.

After 27 days, the RN troops will have completed their relocation to the seven enclaves, and within the framework of the national dialogue, decrees will be implemented amending the laws on the media and on the maintenance of public order and security. Similarly, laws or decrees that oppose the use of habeas corpus, the right of appeal, and the right to strike will be revoked, and a fair wage will be set for workers.

The proposal also calls for amending the electoral law and for establishing provisions to eliminate the parastate functions currently being carried out by the groups known as Sandinist Defense Committees within 27 days after the agreement is signed.

In 30 days, the verification commission of the Sapoa agreements will make an inventory of the RN forces' weapons and military equipment in three of the rebel enclaves. Also, within the national dialogue process, agreements will be reached for the immediate application of measures or reforms which guarantee the separation of the Army and the police from political parties, special commissions will be granted access to all prisons and other centers of detention, and the participants in the national dialogue will present a report on their talks to the verification commission.

Within 40 days, the verification commission will make an inventory of contra troops' weapons in the other four enclaves and, within the national dialogue, agreements will be reached for the implementation of the Political Parties and Municipalities Law. The government will also issue licenses for independent radio and television stations.

Within 50 days, the Judicial Branch will have been granted absolute independence, and guarantees will have been established for the functioning and regulation of an effective mixed economy. In addition, specific dates will be set for elections for municipal officials and a national constituent assembly, and the obligatory military service law will have been revoked.

Finally, 70 days after the peace agreement's signing, the verification Commission will certify whether the agreements have been fulfilled. If the agreements have been fulfilled, the RN troops will begin the process of turning over their weapons and equipment to the commission.

### Government: 'No Comment'

*PA0301160289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1819 GMT 2 Jan 89*

[Excerpt] Managua, 2 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry today told ACAN-EFE it had "no comment" on the peace proposals that two factions of the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) said they were sending the Sandinist government. Both proposals aim to resume negotiations to end the Nicaraguan conflict.

The source insisted he had no knowledge of reports that a Democratic Center Coalition (CCD) delegation, led by Alfredo Cesar, would visit Managua today, as previously announced, to deliver the text of the CCD initiative to Sandinist officials.

The visit was conditioned on the envoys receiving a guarantee of safe-conduct, on which the source did not comment. In Costa Rica, CCD spokesmen said the proposal will be delivered on Wednesday, 4 January.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry had no comment on the other peace proposal, which the RN announced it would deliver tomorrow to the OAS and the Central American governments, including the Managua regime.

In his year-end message, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega implicitly rejected both initiatives, saying they "stink" because they come from "the contras, who are an unburied corpse."

The RN proposed renewing negotiations with the Sandinists on 25 January at the OAS headquarters in Washington. These negotiations had been suspended on 9 June. [passage omitted]

### Ortega Congratulates Castro on Anniversary

*FL0301024189 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Jan 89*

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega today sent a congratulatory message to our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban Revolution.

In the letter, Ortega emphasizes that the victory of our people was the premise for the construction of a free society, deeply democratic and socialist, and an example for all the nations of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The chief of the Sandinist state notes in his letter: We wish the Cuban people new victories in the building of socialism and in the strengthening of the struggle for peace and Latin American unity.

### President Leaves for Cuba; Delegation Listed

*PA0301202989 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1955 GMT 3 Jan 89*

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega heads the delegation that flew to Havana today to participate in the commemoration of the Cuban Revolution's 30th anniversary.

The Nicaraguan delegation also comprises Commander of the Revolution Henry Ruiz, member of the FSLN National Directorate and foreign cooperation minister; Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto; Rosario Murillo, president of the Association of Cultural Workers and the president's wife; Information and Press Minister Manuel Espinoza; Major General Joaquin Cuadra, vice defense minister and chief of the EPS General Staff; Commanders Lenin Cerna and Rene Rivas, deputy interior ministers; Commander Doris Tijerino, chief of the Sandinist Police; Lucio Jimenez, secretary of the Sandinist Central Organization of Workers; Daniel Nunez, president of the National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen; Ambassador to Cuba Gustavo Moreno; and other government officials.

### New Economic Package, Devaluation Announced

*PA0401042489 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0347 GMT 4 Jan 89*

[Text] It was announced a few minutes ago that a new economic package, which has been expected since the end of December, will go into effect tomorrow, 4 January.

Effective tomorrow, the official exchange rate—at the Central Bank—will be 2,000 cordobas to the dollar. Until today, the exchange rate was 900 cordobas per dollar.

This means that imports and consumer goods will cost much more.

Transportation from Managua will cost 100 cordobas as of tomorrow. [The price of] a gallon of gasoline increased 125 percent; this means that as of tomorrow, a gallon of gasoline will cost 4,275 cordobas. The price of other oil by-products is not known yet.

A wage increase has also been announced, but no details are available on the size or percentage of the increase.

### Cardinal 'Indirectly' Criticizes Government

*PA0401003889 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2323 GMT 2 Jan 89*

[Text] Managua, 1 Jan (DPA)—Managua Archbishop Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo today indirectly criticized the Nicaraguan Government by stating that "there can be no peace without justice."

During a 25-minute homily within a mass officiated before thousands of Catholics observing International Day of Peace and the 75th anniversary of Managua Archdiocese's founding, the cardinal, without naming the government, said at the Plaza of the Revolution that in Nicaragua there are "many situations of injustice" and that Catholics must "remain alert to face them" during the new year.

Obando y Bravo added that Bible readers realize that "achieving peace takes a lot of effort, and leaders of the nation are trying to secure a peace that is not the fruit of justice." He also pointed out that those leaders "are not seeking the well-being of the people, but are talking about peace...."

The religious leader said all people in Nicaragua want peace "to be the source of calmness, family and social tranquillity, and liberty and respect of human dignity."

Some countries, Obando y Bravo said, claim they have peace because there are no labor and university conflicts and bloodshed; others claim they have peace although a repressive police state prevents citizens from voicing their opinions.

He added that there are "situations of injustice that do not explode and become open conflicts, because the violence of those in power even leaves those who want to achieve power without energy or opportunities to demand respect for their own rights."

Radio Catolica broadcast the religious ceremony, but the government prevented other radio stations from doing so, according to people in charge of Radio Corporacion and Radio Mundial of Managua.

## Panama

### Opposition Calls for Participation in Elections

*PA0301172989 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 3 Jan 89 pp A-1, B-2*

[Communique issued by Jorge Pacifico Adames, first vice president in charge of the presidency of the Authentic Panamenist Party; Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party; Alfredo Ramirez, president of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement; and Arnulfo Escalona Rios, president of the Authentic Liberal Party in Panama City on 3 January 1989]

[Text] The leaderships of the opposition democratic parties—the Authentic Panamenist Party, the Christian Democratic Party, MOLIRENA [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement], and the Authentic Liberal Party—have analyzed the serious crisis afflicting our country—which stems from a lack of democracy—and the elections scheduled for May 1989. As a result of our talks, we agreed by consensus to recommend to our respective decisionmaking organizations that our parties participate in the elections. This will further our peaceful struggle to end General Noriega's regime and to reconstruct our country on the basis of liberty, justice, and democracy.

In doing so we are responding to our people, who refuse to be subdued by dictatorial repression or defeated by frustration, which could eventually lead to outbreaks of violence.

In doing so we are responding to the determination not to sink further into the economic and social disaster from which we will emerge only if we are able to bring about a democratic change through our struggle.

In doing so we are responding to a determination to recover our national dignity and ensure, through democratic nationalism, a full and responsible nationalization of our canal.

We made this decision although Gen Noriega's regime continues to keep many media sources closed, keep dozens of political prisoners in jail, keep dozens of compatriots in exile, ban public demonstrations, and maintain electoral organizations willing to commit fraud to discourage us from participating in the elections, because his regime knows that a great majority of the

people are on the side of the opposition. In keeping with our position, we want to prevent Gen Noriega from presenting to the country a false alternative between two official forces [the Labor and Democratic Revolutionary Parties] that are supposedly opposed to each other. We want to ensure that our people will have a genuine alternative between candidates of the dictatorship and crisis and those of democracy and a better life.

This further commits us to deepening our struggle to reinstate rights that have been violated and, especially, to reopen the closed media sources, free political prisoners, bring back those in exile, and expedite the integration into the political system of impartial electoral organizations that truly can be trusted by the citizens.

We urge all our country's civic and democratic forces to support this decision by helping establish a broad opposition alliance headed by a single presidential ticket.

We seize this solemn opportunity to request solidarity with our struggle from all Latin American and international democratic forces, which can promote the necessary conditions conducive to free and honest elections and can provide experienced, impartial observers to witness the electoral process.

Naturally, we will assess our course of action in light of developments throughout the electoral process. We will jointly adopt any strategies or positions leading to Panama's true democratization.

Jorge Pacifico Adames, first vice president in charge of the presidency of the Authentic Panamenist Party
Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party
Alfredo Ramirez, president of MOLIRENA
Arnulfo Escalona Rios, president of the Authentic Liberal Party
Panama City, 3 January 1989

## PPA Contests Nicosia Faction's Convention

*PA0201013989 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 30 Dec 88 pp A-1, B-15*

[Report by Claudio Herrera Jimenez]

[Excerpts] The Authentic Panamenist Party [PPA] yesterday filed a document at the Electoral Tribunal to contest the actions carried out by Hildebrando A. Nicosia's faction, which established a discipline tribunal, chose a new national directorate, and modified the PPA's statutes.

The lawsuits were filed by lawyers Enrique Zarak Linares, Jose Miguel Aleman, and Guillermo Endara Galimany at the Electoral Tribunal's General Secretariat.

One of the lawsuits is aimed at "contesting the modifications to the PPA statutes that were adopted by the spurious national PPA convention held on 11 December 1988 in Anton, Cocle Province."

The legal action seeks "the annulment of the modifications of the PPA statues, modifications that had been sent to the Electoral Tribunal for its approval. [no closing quotation marks as published] [passage omitted]

The PPA also contests the actions carried out on 30 November 1988 to create a discipline tribunal and a PPA national directorate. [passage omitted]

The creation of a spurious discipline tribunal and the replacement of National Directorate members who face charges, to create a spurious new National Directorate, were carried out by drawing lots among a minority of National Directorate members. This violates Article 52 of the PPA statutes, which states that the advisory board will choose among its own members and appoint as many as needed to complete the discipline tribunal board. Thus, it will replace the National Directorate members who face charges.

Yesterday's ceremony was attended by approximately 12 PPA leaders (Jorge Pacifico Adames' faction), including David Artola and Assistant Secretary General Guillermo Endara.

## PPA President Nicosia Visits United States

*PA0301161089 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 3 Jan 89 p 20*

[Text] PPA [Authentic Panamenist Party] President Hildebrando A. Nicosia Perez unexpectedly left for New York and Washington yesterday. His visit concerns matters related to the country's future. We wish this newspaper's good friend success and a prompt return.

## U.S. Official Accused of 'Interfering' in PPA

*PA0301195389 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 1 Jan 89 pp 1, 8-A*

[Text] Western Panama Province—Reports received a few minutes before this issue went to press reveal that John Maisto [U.S. Embassy deputy chief of mission], the ill-fated figure of the U.S. Embassy in Panama, went to Roberto "Tito" Arias' house in El Higo, San Carlos District, on 31 December.

Reports from that area and from sources close to Tito Arias' house indicate that Maisto visited Arias because the latter expressed his support for the Authentic Panamenist Party [PPA] faction headed by Jorge Pacifico Adames, Guillermo Endara, Francisco Artola, Jose Salvador Munoz, and Galician Carlos Rodriguez.

Maisto has been interfering in PPA internal affairs for some time now. It was previously reported that he had met with Gilberto Arias. Gilberto Arias and Roberto Arias are nephews of the late Arnulfo Arias Madrid, who until his death was PPA president.

It was also learned that the new strategy of Maisto, one of the people responsible for the crisis our country is experiencing, is one of his last-ditch efforts. All of his actions against Panama have failed, and he is desperate now.

Maisto, Arthur Davis [U.S. ambassador to Panama], [his daughter] Susan Davis, and other U.S. Embassy officials are considered personae non gratae by the Panamanian Government and therefore do not enjoy any diplomatic privileges or immunity.

## Newspaper Supplement Marks Cuban Anniversary

PA0401031089 [Editorial Report] Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish on 1 January carries a 12-page supplement in tabloid form devoted to the Cuban Revolution. The front page consists of the headlines "30th Anniversary" and "Triumph of the Revolution," as well as a red star on top of three X's. The supplement bears no masthead or other information identifying the source of the publication except a parenthetical note on page 11—the last page of text—at the end of an item entitled "Tourism" that says: "Source: Vision de Cuba, Alberto Salazar Gutierrez, Victor Perez Galdos." There is no mention in the 1 January issue of the progovernment LA REPUBLICA, which is published by Editora Renovacion, of the supplement.

The supplement consists of the following: a 1,600-word item on Cuba's history from its discovery and conquest by Spain to the victory of the revolution in 1959, pages 2-3. A photograph of Fidel Castro entering Havana in 1959 and one showing him talking with the late Camilo Cienfuegos accompany this item. Other material consists of articles on Cuba's economic and social development, pages 3-4; foreign trade, pages 4-5; health, pages 6-7; education, page 8; science and culture, pages 9-10; sports, pages 10-11, and tourism, page 11. The back page consists of a photograph of Fidel Castro on a mountaintop during the revolution with a caption: "Commander in Chief: At your service!"

Few photographs accompany the text. The text is primarily anti-American and anticapitalist in tone. The articles emphasize Cuba's backwardness and underdevelopment under Spanish rule and as a result of "U.S. imperialist meddling." In contrast, heavy emphasis is placed on Cuba's development, independence, and progress in all areas under Castro's revolution. For example, the item on tourism notes that current visitors to Cuba are eager "to see firsthand the true face of a nation that chose its own destiny and is building a more splendorous life for itself."

## Argentina

### Alfonsin Names New Deputy Joint Chief of Staff

*PY3012170788 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1329 GMT 30 Dec 88*

[Summary] Buenos Aires, 30 Dec (TELAM)—Today President Raul Alfonsin signed a decree naming Rear Admiral Rodolfo Orlando Tettamanti new Armed Forces Joint Chief of Staff deputy chief. The decree, No 1909, was also signed by Defense Minister Jose Horacio Jaunarena.

### Gassino Foresees No More Rebellions

*PY0201233489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1523 GMT 2 Jan 89*

[Text] Cordoba, 2 Jan (TELAM)—Army Chief of Staff General Francisco Gassino does not anticipate any new rebellions, because "if I admit such a possibility I would be admitting in advance I had failed, because my objective is to unite the Army." General Gassino warned, however, that "if anything happens, I will act with all severity."

Gen Gassino said the Army "has never remained on the sidelines of Argentine society" because it "is part of society."

"If the Army had to take a different position or fulfill other functions outside of its specific duties, that is something to be analyzed elsewhere," Gassino said.

Gassino made this comment to the daily LA VOZ DE SAN JUSTO, which is published in San Francisco, 220 km east of Cordoba, where Gassino's relatives live. Gassino was in town over the Christmas holidays.

Gassino told the daily that his objective was "to unite the Army." Gassino added: "I have already taken the first steps to bring together all sectors and all members of the Army. This unity will bring calm and peace to the Army and to the nation, and will contribute to public tranquillity, one of the tenets of our Constitution."

Asked about the situation of Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, head of last December's rebellion, Gassino said that "his case is under the jurisdiction of military justice. This court will decide how to proceed."

Gassino said: "The Army is part of society because their members are part of it."

Gassino then added: "First, we will demand from our militarymen full respect for our citizens, as it should always have been, but we will also humbly ask that society respect us, because our institution is part of society."

Gassino refused to comment when asked if he thought "the solution" to the cases of military violations of human rights was to take them to the Supreme Court. He said: "You will excuse me, because the issue is in the hands of the judicial branch, and in this country the different government branches operate independently. I do not want to intrude in a jurisdiction that is not mine."

Asked about the possibility of conflicts, Gassino said that "there is not a country in the world that does not prepare for the possibility of conflicts. The fact that we plan for such contingencies does not mean the plans will be used. They are what we call war contingencies. This planning is done by the Joint General Staff under the direction of the Ministry of Defense. It is something real, it exists. If someone says we do not work on war contingencies, it is because he does not know or does not want to accept reality."

Gassino added that the Armed Forces budget "is a prerogative of the political sector," and "we will develop our programs to the extent this budget enables us." Gassino said he will "respect the decisions of the political sector, and I will adjust our programs based on what the budget allocates to us."

Gassino then added: "We will feel satisfied the day the media forget about us, the day we are only remembered when our national sovereignty is at stake and the political sector determines we are needed."

### Negotiations With UK Over Falklands Urged

*PY0301143689 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1400 GMT 3 Jan 89*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Jan (NA)—The government today ratified its "willingness to engage in negotiations that will lead to a definite solution" to the conflict between Argentina and Great Britain over Malvinas sovereignty. This call comes on the occasion of the 156th anniversary of the usurpation of the islands.

The government also reiterates its "thanks to the countries that have understood the Argentine demand and the value of a just and peaceful solution that will permit the continuation of international harmony."

Argentine authorities made this call for negotiations to seek a peaceful solution to the conflict in a communique that was released today by the Foreign Ministry.

The communique recalls that today is the 156th anniversary of the British usurpation of the Argentine archipelago.

"One hundred and fifty-six years ago today the Malvinas Islands were illegally occupied by an English Naval force that told the authorities on the island to bring down the flag of our fatherland and evacuate the place, thus causing a dismembering of the national territory," the communique indicates.

## Report on UK Property Submitted to Deputies

*PY3112152788 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1650 GMT 30 Dec 88*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Dec (NA)—Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has submitted to the Chamber of Deputies a report on the property owned by the British crown in Argentina. The report, which was submitted after a 9-month delay, provides valuable information for the debate on the strategy for recovering the Malvinas Islands.

The 12-page report was requested because Caputo was unable to answer four questions from Peronist Deputy Ruben Cardozo during a session in which the minister was virtually grilled about the military exercises Great Britain carried out in the islands in March 1988. The report states that the Argentine Government has evidence that the British Government owns eight apartments and two cars in Argentina.

The enterprises owned by British subjects who live outside Argentina have performed 89 transactions, transferring rights of ownership [transferencias de dominio y cesiones de derecho], since the creation of the national commission for the control of British property, established during the 1982 war.

The 92 companies, 12 insurance companies, and 2 banks controlled by the commission, which reports directly to the Presidency, performed 58 transactions involving the sale of real estate and paid salaries abroad. Twenty-one trade marks were also transferred.

This method of control, created to prevent a possible "drain of British fixed assets," has serious setbacks; among other things, it is based on self-reporting [autodenuncia] mechanism.

The transactions performed by British companies whose property was declared "unavailable" through law 22,591 dated 18 May 1981, amount "to less than $1 billion."

In the introduction, Caputo admits that "it is very difficult to identify property directly or indirectly owned by the British crown, because such property is not registered as being owned by the crown."

An annex to the report provides the whereabouts of the eight apartments in Buenos Aires and two cars, which were probably used by British diplomats before the armed conflict.

The report does not list the British Embassy building at 2412 Luis Agote Street, which currently houses the section of British interests of the Swiss Embassy.

The report also ignores a significant piece of information: The total remittances of the British companies abroad, because London's primary interest with respect to Argentina is financial.

Progovernment sources justified this omission, claiming that "Caputo did not report those figures because such figures are handled by the Central Bank, and all payments on the foreign debt are made to the creditor bank committee, not to a specific country."

The report shows that Peronist presidential candidate Carlos Menem's threat to expropriate the property of the British crown, if London's "intransigence" at resuming the talks over the Malvinas remains unchanged, will not exert much pressure.

The expropriation should be done logically and on a trial bases; for example, compensation for the damage caused by the 1982 conflict. Menem has given up his initial idea of embargoing British property, probably because a legal declaration of war must exist in order to embargo property.

The subject led Cardozo to address a note to the chairman of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Affairs Committee. Federico Storani [passage indistinct] The foreign minister "provided insufficient information."

Through another note, Storani answered that the request was "inappropriate" and that Caputo would report on his own will if necessary. If "the exploration" of positions, which began with a meeting that Caputo held with UK Ambassador to the United Nations Crispin Tickell in Geneva this month, yields results, it is sure that Caputo will report to congress next year.

## CNEA Director Explains Energy Crisis

*PY3012160688 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Dec 88*

[Text] Our colleague (Dario Aldovich) has interviewed CNEA Nuclear Plants Director (Bernardo Gurmich), who referred to the reconnection of the Embalse nuclear plant to the national power grid.

[Begin recording] [(Gurmich)] The Embalse Nuclear plant was reconnected to the national power grid today, 29 December, at 0930. Right now this plant is operating at full capacity.

Regarding nuclear plants, for which I am responsible, Atucha, as you all know, is out of service and under repairs We believe that it will resume operations in May. With this plant in operation our nuclear plants will be running at full capacity.

The overall nuclear energy capacity amounts to approximately 12,600 megawatts, of which Embalse accounts for approximately 8 percent of the overall installed capacity. Nuclear Power Stations normally supply more than 15 percent of the overall energy consumed through the national power grid.

The shutdown of Atucha has reduced by between 2 and 3 percent the installed capacity of the overall system, and the shutdown of Embalse has reduced it by another 5 percent. This means that today we are only some 3 percent short of the overall capacity. [as heard]

[(Aldovich)] Mr (Gurmich), what is the contribution of the Embalse Nuclear plant as it resumes operations? Can this help to reduce the number of power cuts? Is this contribution so insignificant that it will not effect the general energy supply?

[(Gurmich)] No. We are supplying 600 megawatts to the national power grid. When the power cuts were established on 9 December, Embalse was still operational. So, Embalse's shutdown could have aggravated the problem, but not much.

[(Aldovich)] Does Atucha's shutdown represent a considerable reduction of energy from the nuclear sector, or could some nuclear plants increase their energy supply?

[(Gurmich)] No. We have two nuclear plants in operation, although one of them is being repaired. A third Plant, Atucha II is still under construction. We believe that Atucha II will begin operations in 1994.

[(Aldovich)] Does this mean that the current situation of nuclear plants will continue at least until May 1989?

[(Gurmich)] Yes. We will not be able to make any additional contribution during this period. [end recording]

## Bolivia

### Bedregal To Participate in Cuban Celebration

#### Pluralism Stressed

*PY3112142188 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 31 Dec 88*

[Text] Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal will travel to Havana on 6 December to participate in the celebrations of the Cuban revolution.

The Foreign Ministry has reported that Bedregal—currently in Madrid, Spain—will travel to Cuba over the weekend to demonstrate the open-mindedness and political pluralism of the Bolivian Government.

#### Note Issued

*PY0401133089 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 4 Jan 89*

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has issued a note stating that Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez has demonstrated the broadly pluralistic policy of the Bolivian Government. The note states that the presence of the foreign minister in Cuba reflects the open-mindedness of Bolivian foreign policy. The note also includes excerpts of the speech that Bedregal gave during the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution. The note reports that the minister will return to La Paz this evening after attending several ceremonies in Vienna, Spain, Cuba, and other nations.

### Country Receives Various Loans From Abroad

#### Japan Lends $55 Million

*PY3112111788 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 22 Dec 88 pp 1,5*

[By special envoy]

[Text] Tokyo, 21 Dec—Bolivian Ambassador to Japan Arnold Hoftman Bang Soleto and Mr Shoichi Tanimura, president of the Japanese Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), today signed an agreement for the so-called RIC-II loan or "Second Reconstruction Import Loan" [preceding four words in English].

Under this agreement, Japan will lend Bolivia 7,200 million yen, or more than $55 million, at a 3.5 percent annual interest rate with a 20-year repayment period. The loan is intended to restore Bolivian economic growth and to reactivate exports.

#### World Bank Grants $9.7 Million

*PY3112112088 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 23 Dec 88 p 1*

[Summary] Public Investments Under Secretary Fernando Cossio reported that yesterday the World Bank approved a $9.7 million line of credit for Bolivia. The money will be used in a program for strengthening public sector institutions.

### Currency Devalued by 12 Percent in 1988

*PY3012180688 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 22 Dec 88 p 6*

[Summary] Central Bank President Jaques Trigo yesterday said that the Bolivian currency has been devalued by 12 percent during 1988.

## Brazil

### 1988 Economic Growth Rate Reported Near Zero

*PY3112141988 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 Dec 88 p 1*

[Text] The growth of the Brazilian economy during 1988 was practically zero. According to the IBGE [Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics] the GDP, which represents the accrued total of goods and services produced by the country, grew by only 0.04 percent as compared to 1987.

This growth rate is the smallest registered since 1983 (when the rate was a negative 2.8 percent), when the Brazilian economy suffered its worst economic crisis since the 1930's. The 1988 index was strongly influenced

by a 3.05 percent drop in industrial production. If we take into account that the population grew by 2.1 percent, the figure above indicates a real decline of 1.9 percent [figures as received] in per capita income. IBGE National Accounts Chief Claudio Considera has said that the index shows that the economy is stagnating. The GDP this year should reach 101 trillion cruzados.

### Relending Operations Limited to 75 Percent

*PY3012114788 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Dec 88 p B-4*

[Text] Yesterday the Central Bank released a circular limiting the relending operations on the Brazilian creditors' debts deposited in cruzados at the Central Bank to 75 percent. By adopting this measure, the Central Bank intends to discourage the so-called "bicycle operations" (operacoes bicicleta), which consist of withdrawing the entire value of the debt from the Central Bank, converting it to dollars on the parallel market and sending it abroad.

Armin Lore, Central Bank Foreign Area director, thinks that the difference between the official dollar rate and the parallel market rate will make the relending operation unprofitable now that the circular limits it to 75 percent of the total debt value instead of the previously allowed 100 percent. According to the circular released yesterday, the remaining 25 percent cannot be converted and must be held at the Central Bank. The spread rate established when the debt was rescheduled (it is now 0.8125 percent), the Libor [London Interbank Offered Rate] rate, and the percentage obtained through the fluctuation of the exchange rate will be paid on this 25 percent.

The relending operations are performed whenever a Brazilian debtor, who does not have the dollars needed to pay for his debt with the creditor banks, deposits the equivalent in cruzados at the Central Bank, and the creditor organization, which cannot recover its money in the short term, reinvests the money in Brazil through the conversion mechanisms.

### Army To Stress Technology in '89 Goals

*PY3112141488 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 Dec 88 p 4*

[Text] Brasilia—The Army has decided to follow "the evolutionary process" of technological developments and to include as part of their goals for 1989 the delivery of electronic warfare communications materiel to the Electronic Warfare Training Center, the operation of the 1st Army Aviation Batallion, and the manufacture of nitrocellulose and primary mass [massa primaria] by Ordnance Industry (EMBEL). The "Army Prospects for 1989," as published by THE ARMY NEWS BULLETIN yesterday, also includes improvements in teaching and training. One of the items mentions the opening of the Army Administration School, in Salvador, that will train the first group of women in 1990 and a new cadre of officers.

## Chile

### Merino Disapproves of Ties With USSR

*PY0401010489 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 3 Jan 89*

[Excerpts] This afternoon the government junta approved a bill granting a 10-percent salary increase to the public sector. The increase had been announced by President Pinochet in his New Year's eve speech, and today Admiral Jose Toribio Merino Castro reported that the legislative branch had approved the bill. [passage omitted]

Merino said he was against the resumption of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. He thus disagreed with what General Pinochet had told the French newspaper LE MONDE.

[Begin recording] [Merino] I do not think it would be very advisable. During the administration of Salvador Allende, the Soviet Union occupied the entire building here, behind us. Our bureau in Moscow held no more than 8 to 10 people, while the Soviets' had nearly 100 people, most of them agents assigned to intervene and interfere in Chilean public affairs. That is the reason things got so bad.

[Reporter] Do you not think there is a contradiction in the fact that the Communist Party is persecuted in Chile while government officials talk of a possible resumption of relations with the Soviet Union?

[Merino] No, the conclusion here is clear. The Communists are extremists of the left. They do not have any political role in Chile. Neither can we have diplomatic relations with those who head the Communist system in the world.

If the United States and other countries have relations with the Soviet Union, it is because they are world powers, and they are closer to a war with them. This way they are at least talking instead of going to war.

[Reporter] Do you not believe in perestroyka at all?

[Merino] Not the least bit. Nothing. I do not believe anything the Russians say. [end recording]

The admiral concluded by saying that he thought the indictment of the four Communist leaders was perfectly just.

### Journalists Want Government To Withdraw Charges

*PY0301192089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1459 GMT 3 Jan 89*

[Text] Santiago, 3 Jan (EFE)—The board of the Chilean Bar Association today demanded that the government of General Augusto Pinochet withdraw all charges against journalists.

In a note the bar association refers to a government report announcing the withdrawal of charges brought before the ordinary courts against 45 journalists and adds that this measure only partially solves the problem affecting the press in Chile.

The reporters insist that the cancellation must be extended to all charges brought before the military courts against 18 journalists.

The bar association asks the public "not to be deceived "by the measures adopted by the government regarding trials being conducted by the civilian courts, because "the trials against journalists continue."

### PCCh Stages Rally To Mark Cuban Revolution

*PY0301124789 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 3 Jan 89*

[Text] Last night the proscribed PCCh, which is an unlawful party, demonstrated its direct ties with the regime of dictator Fidel Castro by holding a rally to mark the 30th anniversary of the takeover of the island by the Marxist guerrilla.

The rally was held at the California Theater here in Santiago. It was attended by representatives of the political groups that make up the United Left coalition.

The rally was also marked by the presence of members of the FPMR and the Rodriguista Militia [milicias rodriguistas] organizations, who waved their banners and shouted slogans that are offensive to the Armed Forces Government and to President Pinochet.

The stage was decorated with posters of Jose Marti, 'Che' Guevara, and Fidel Castro.

The participants listened to a message recorded by the Cuban dictator, calling for Latin American subversion.

The only speaker was Carlos Toro, a political leader, who extolled the regime that now dominates Cuba, and recalled the 67th PCCh anniversary.

### INE Reports Inflation, Unemployment Rates

*PY0301182580 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Jan 89*

[Summary] Luis Gatica, the National Institute of Statistics (INE) Operations deputy director, has reported that during 1988 the cumulative inflation rate totaled 12.7 percent.

In turn, INE Labor Statistics chief Eduardo Carrasco has reported a 7.1-percent unemployment rate for the September-November 1988 quarter.

### 3d Air Force Brigadier Commander Installed

*PY0201180489 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 27 Dec 88 p C-5*

[Summary] Puerto Montt—During a ceremony at the "El Tepual" Air Force base, Air Force Brigadier General Patricio Araya Ugalde was installed asf 3d Air Force brigadier commander, replacing Air Force Brigadier General Jorge Iturriaga Moreira.

### Air Force High Command; Retirements Announced

*PY0401003289 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 3 Jan 89*

[Summary] The Chilean Air Force [FACH], through an official communique, has confirmed the retirement of former Transportation Minister General Jorge Massa and of the former FACH inspector general, General Jaime Gonzalez.

The communique also states that the FACH high command is comprised of General Fernando Matthei Aubel as commander in chief, General Caupolican Boisset Mujica as president of the National Aeronautics Enterprise, and General Ramon Vega Hidalgo as FACH chief of staff.

## Colombia

### President Delivers New Year's Address

*PA0301234189 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0101 GMT 2 Jan 89*

[New Year's speech by President Virgilio Barco in Bogota—live or recorded]

[Text] Compatriots: On this 1 January, I send each and every Colombian my cordial New Year's greeting. My wish, the same as your's, is that 1989 will bring peace to our homes and prosperity to Colombia.

I know that Colombians wonder how the country fared in 1988 and how it will fare in 1989. The past year was, undoubtedly, a difficult one but, despite violence, our economy did well, democracy was strengthened, and the reforms that will bring us true peace were approved.

There are reasons to be optimistic about the new year. The economy during 1988 continued the achievements that have been reached during the past 2 and ½ years. Growth, employment, production, government investments, social programs, private investment, coffee, income, exports, and international reserves are only some of the fields where we accomplished important advances and deep satisfaction during 1988.

Overall, our economy grew more than 4 percent and reaffirmed the strength of our production sector. During 1986, 1987, and now 1988, we have experienced our highest and most stable expansion in the eighties. We

will mantain this growth in 1989. The industrial, agricultural, trade, financial, and services sectors had a positive balance that will allow us to start the year with a solid base and to advance still further during 1989.

Colombians should not pay attention to pessimists who only forecast disasters that never take place. They are the same people who said 2 years ago that the economic surge would be temporary and that we would be unable to reduce unemployment. The facts have proven otherwise.

Let us consider what has happened with unemployment. When my administration began, unemployment was at its highest rate in history. We have reduced unemployment by approximately one-third in 2 years. The current 10-percent unemployment rate is the lowest in the past 6 years. We have created more than 380,000 new jobs. The unemployment rates in small and medium-sized cities was lower during 1988 than in the previous year. Unemployment diminished significantly in cities such as Pasto, Cucuta, Ibague, Monteria, Bucaramanga, and Manizales. The same has happened in big cities. Medellin, for example, had an unemployment rate of more than 17 percent in 1984, and that rate decreased gradually to 11 percent in December 1988. Cali has had the same experience, and what is equally encouraging is the amount of people who want to work and who believe they will find a decent job has grown significantly. Thus, the decrease in unemployment is one more reason to be optimistic.

In 1988, we improved our position in the foreign sector: We became more competitive in the international market, increased our reserves, and opened new foreign outlets for our products. Total exports increased by 11 percent in U.S. currency during 1988. This was due to the large number of minor exports. The exports of manufactured products and industrial goods increased by more than 20 percent and those of agricultural products other than coffee increased by more than 25 percent. The country's reserves are now worth more than $3.7 billion. Consequently, we are in a favorable situation so in 1989 we can continue to succeed abroad and assert Colombia's presence in the world's markets.

I think the coffee-related figures deserve special attention. Last year was a historic year for the coffee industry and the millions of Colombians who depend on it. A new contract was signed between the National Federation of Coffee Growers and the government whereby the negotiation procedures and the coffee growing policy were strengthened.

Thousands of Colombians who make a living from this crop have expressed to me, through their organizations, their approval of this situation. Also, the quality of Colombia's coffee was recognized at the International Coffee Organization. This will enable Colombia to increase the number of sacks sold. These achievements ensure an adequate income for coffee growers and clarify and ensure the future of a vital sector of the Colombian economy.

Our conomy is healthy and continues to grow. Thanks to this, the social programs to improve the living conditions of the poorest sectors of our population are also yielding satisfactory results. Public expenditures have been redirected to help the poor and destitute. The national rehabilitation plan has extended the state's community programs to 198 municipalities where nearly 5,000,000 Colombians live. In addition, the peasants' comprehensive development plan is taking care of the needs of 4,000,000 Colombian farmers who live on nearly 600,000 small estates. These programs have been combined with others to integrate marginal regions into the local markets.

The road and highway construction program is advancing rapidly. For example, in little more than 2 years, the secondary road fund has invested more than twice the resources used between 1982 and 1986. Telecommunications are also experiencing great changes, which will help integrate the areas most hurt by poverty. The rural telephone program under way will double the area already covered and serve 12,000,000 people.

Education and health programs, which are part of the plan to eradicate extreme poverty, are being implemented as scheduled. The chidren's welfare program, whose objective is to improve the living conditions and the proper physical and mental development of children under 7 years old in the areas of extreme poverty, has yielded excellent results. There are currently 20,000 welfare homes in operation. These homes are taking care of more than 300,000 children in 377 municipalities, 1,535 villages, and 3,121 boroughs. We plan to double the program in 1989 and have 46,700 welfare homes that will take care of nearly 700,000 children. The necessary resources for this will be made available thanks to the law proposed by the government and passed by the Congress.

The Congress also passed several bills that will immediately improve the living conditions of cooperative members and workers in general. For instance, in 1989, retirees will start receiving higher pensions that will be automatically adjusted to reflect raises in the minimum wage. In the political sphere, very important advances took place in 1988. Despite the fact that the enemies of democracy increased their despicable acts of violence, there has been a strengthening of the foundations that can truly support a firm and lasting peace in Colombia.

Our political system is being modernized; our democracy is being broadened. In March 1988, we held the first mayoral election in the nation's history. Voter turnout was one of the largest in Colombian history, and the elections took place in an atmosphere of peace, with broad participation of candidates from across the political spectrum.

Democracy emerged fortified. The electorate overwhelmingly rejected violence. In addition, the benefits of having the government team up with the opposition parties are beginning to be felt in a tangible manner.

In 1988, approval was granted to reforms that the country had wanted for many years. This is the case with urban reform, [which was] submitted to Congress by the government, and which gives the state the authority to intervene in the distribution of urban property, to end land speculation, fight pirate urban developers, and provide dignified and affordable housing to the poorest sectors.

The approval of the most ambitious amendments to the Constitution in the last 50 years, after the first round of debates, opens new roads to the modernization of Colombian institutions. Congress adopted the fundamental features of the government's proposal.

This is how we will advance toward participatory democracy, with the introduction of the people's initiative, the referendum, the democratization of the political parties, and the participation of workers in the ownership, management, and profits of business ventures.

The state will have greater efficiency due to the incorporation into our Constitution of aspects that will harmonize the efforts of the three branches of government, while at the same time strengthening Congress and justice. Both the government and the opposition will bear greater responsibility, after the new scheme is set up, and the National Front is permanently dismantled. The human rights of the Colombian people will be guaranteed by broader and more effective measures.

In 1988, the Congress carried out very important tasks, which have been widely recognized by the entire nation. In the year ahead, it will be up to Congress to continue providing solutions to the most pressing problems faced by the Colombian people. Just as the government's proposal led to tax reform in 1986, in 1987 the government achieved land reform, and in 1988, the government gave its approval to the urban reform, the budget law, and the constitutional amendments, in the first round of debates. Likewise, public opinion expects that in 1989, the new Constitution will take on a definite shape.

All of these reforms lead the way to social justice and full democracy; true bases to achieve a strong and lasting peace. All of these achievements resulting from the proper workings of democracy account for the Colombian people's stronger rejection of violence.

The peace initiative, the rehabilitation policy, and the military operations have isolated the guerrilla groups. Never before had the violent ones—whether of the left or right—faced such overwhelming repudiation by the Colombian people. The government will continue its policy of restoring peace throughout the nation. Strengthened and better equipped, the police forces will continue their struggle against all types of crime.

The peace initiative leaves a door open. Those who demonstrate with deeds that they want to forsake weapons and join the vast majority that prefers democracy may do so. The government has listened and will listen to their proposals, but will keep forces stationed throughout the nation.

Impunity is one of the problems that makes peace most difficult. The government is tackling the structural pitfalls in the administration of justice. The judiciary's budget has been increased and we are beginning to use computers to speed up proceedings. Courts are being decongested by the use of summary decrees little by little. Initiatives will be included in the constitutional amendments to make justice administration more efficient, but these measures will not be as effective as all of us want them to be without the citizens' cooperation.

Among the many emergency measures adopted by this administration to strengthen the judicial branch, I wish to point out the creation of a special jurisdiction for public order, which is made up of several special judges with broader powers and a superior court. By means of a state-of-siege decree, we also enacted a strict antiterrorist statute to defend democracy and we also established life imprisonment for perpetrators of massacres and terrorist attacks. The investigative services have been strengthened and their equipment has been improved.

Colombia possesses great natural wealth and has a hard-working people who wish to prosper. The vitality of its democracy and the vigor of its economy amid a difficult public order situation bear uncontestable witness to the fact that we Colombians are building a new Colombia. The pessimists must stop playing the game of those prone to violence who wish to sow despair and break the enterprising spirit and—why not say so—the mettle of the Colombians people, who live in an exceptional country.

We know Colombia's history has been stormy and harsh. We must not forget this but we must also not forget that we have always overcome every difficult era. That is why we are better off now than before. I am an optimist because I can even appreciate the progress and successes we have achieved amid the difficulties with which all of us are familiar. The reality is that democracy has become substantially stronger; that—socially and economically—our country is progressing by leaps and bounds; and that the reforms we have adopted have laid the groundwork for a solid and lasting peace. Rather than a cornered and stagnant democracy, we have a more vigorous, more open, and increasingly modern democracy.

For this reason, and with full confidence in Colombia's promising future, I express my best wishes for the personal wellbeing of each of you and your families. Good night, and so long.

### Guerrillas Propose Direct Talks With Government

*PA0301191089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1804 GMT 2 Jan 89*

[Excerpt] Bogota, 2 Jan (EFE)—The Colombian guerrillas have sent a letter to President Virgilio Barco proposing a direct dialogue between the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG] and the government.

The proposal, a copy of which EFE received today, was sent by the FARC, which is one of six guerrilla groups comprising the CNG.

The guerrilla letter proposes that Barco "urgently begin a direct dialogue at this crucial moment with all members of the CNG to explore new actions toward achieving peace." The document states that in the next few days the CNG will issue "a new consensus declaration" on peace.

The FARC acknowledges that in December there were "encouraging signs for peace," including the Leyva Plan, FARC's Christmas cease-fire, and unofficial contacts between the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace and the M-19. An invitation by Julio Cesar Turbay, leader of the ruling Liberal Party, to the guerrillas to review the government's peace plan and point out objections was also described as positive.

On 1 September, President Barco proposed a peace plan involving direct talks with guerrilla groups that have shown with words and deeds their commitment to achieving peace. [passage omitted]

### Police Discover Clandestine Radio Station

*PA0301203589 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 28 Dec 88 p 10-A*

[Unattributed report]

[Text] The police have confiscated equipment belonging to a clandestine radio station that operated in Viracacha, Boyaca Department, and regularly broadcast guerrilla messages. A local councilman is involved in the case.

The station was installed in the village of Icarina. Councilman Jairo Baron Lopez, a member of the Social Conservative Party, owns the equipment. He was arrested and will appear before the authorities this week. The station broadcasts programs related to guerrilla actions at certain times.

Transmitters, amplifiers, antennas, microphones, and condensers were confiscated. According to the councilman's preliminary testimony, unidentified people would come regularly to his station and force him to play prerecorded cassettes. The police say there are another 20 clandestine radio stations in Boyaca Department.

## Venezuela

### Exceptions to Debt Payment Suspension Listed

*PA0301152489 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 2 Jan 89*

[Text] Although the government has decided to suspend payment of the foreign debt, it is important to note payments on commercial obligations will continue. Finance Minister Hector Hurtado said the suspension does not include loans from multilateral and bilateral official organizations, foreign debt amortizations in the form of bonds or notes with floating rates, loans from official foreign agencies or loans insured by these agencies, and debt incurred in foreign trade, including letters of credit and loans made after 1983.

### Oil Exports, Revenues To Increase in 1989

*PA3012150488 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 20 Dec 88 p 2-2*

[Summary] The Mines and Energy Ministry has reported that Venezuela will be able to increase its oil exports in 1989. According to the report, next year Venezuela will be able to export 1.61 million barrels of oil a day at $16.66 per barrel. These sales could generate $9.638 billion.

In 1988, Venezuela exported an average of 1.585 million barrels of oil a day at $13.66 per barrel. Revenues totaled $7.903 billion.

Energy and Mines Ministry officials anticipate a steady increase in oil prices in January, which will coincide with the implementation of the measures agreed upon during the 84th OPEC meeting. Likewise, they are very optimistic about the future for the international oil market and its contribution to Venezuela's economic development.

### Trade With Andean Nations Up From Last Year

*PA3012122288 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 22 Dec 88 p D-7*

[Report by Wilmer Ferrer]

[Summary] Venezuela's trade with the Andean nations increased significantly during 1988; this was the result of the country's economic growth.

Venezuelan exports to Andean countries amounted to $93 million during the 1st half of 1988, compared to $77 million for the same period last year. It is hoped that total exports to these countries this year will be $200 million, compared to $160 million in 1987.

Imports from Venezuela's Andean trading partners during the 1st half of 1987 were $67 million. These imports reached $117 million in the 1st half of 1988 and are expected to reach $230 million by the end of the year.

### Police Arrest Colombian Smuggling Cocaine

*PA0101131589 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 23 Dec 88 p 5-32*

[Summary] According to Venezuelan National Guard reports, Colombian citizen Ignacio Isaza, 35, was arrested at the Maiquetia International Airport in Caracas as he was about to board a plane for Portugal carrying 2 kg of pure cocaine in his suitcase.